Routes to tour in Germany

The German Fairy Tale Route

Osterholz-Scharmbeck
Worpswede
Bremen
Nienburg
Minden
Bad Oeynhausen
Bückeburg
Hameln
Bad Pyrmont
Bodenwerder
Neuhaus
Bad Karlshafen
Göttingen
Hann.-Münden
Kassel
Bad Sooden-Allendorf
Fritzlar
Marburg
Alsfeld
Lauterbach
Steinau
Schlüchtern
Gelnhausen
Hanau

German roads will get you there – even if nostalgia is your destination. On your next visit why not call to mind those halcyon childhood days when your mother or father told you fairy tales, maybe German ones? The surroundings in which our great fairy tale writers lived or the scenes in which the tales themselves were set will make their meaning even clearer and show you that many are based on a fairly realistic background.

On a tour from Hanau, near Frankfurt, where the Brothers Grimm were born, to Bremen, where the Town Band (consisting of a donkey, a dog, a cat and a cockerel) played such dreadful music that it put even robbers to flight, you will enjoy the varying kinds of countryside. And do stop over at Bodenwerder. That was where Baron Münchhausen told his breathtaking lies.

Visit Germany and let the Fairy Tale Route be your guide.

1 Bremen
2 Bodenwerder, home of Münchhausen
3 Hanau, birthplace of the Brothers Grimm
4 Alsfeld

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Beethovenstrasse 69, D-6000 Frankfurt/M



















Hamburg, 8 May 1988
Twenty-seventh year - No. 1321 - By air
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Touch of disillusionment in arms-control process

Frankfurter Allgemeine

The pace of US-Soviet arms limitations talks has slowed down in recent weeks, with neither Moscow nor Washington believing that a treaty to halve the number of strategic weapons *will be ripe for signing by the time President* Reagan and General Secretary Gorbachov meet in Moscow at the end of the month.

It is doubtful whether Secretary of State Shultz and Foreign Minister Shevardnadze will make a breakthrough in *Geneva comparable with their success* last November in clearing the remaining obstacles to the INF Treaty.

The strategic arms limitation (Start) talks are fraught with difficulties on two counts, one being that they deal with crucial, strategic systems that are the basis of the deterrent and, in the Soviet Union's case, that of its claim to world power status.

The other is that Start entails inspection problems far more complex than the procedures agreed by the terms of the INF Treaty.

Start is also connected with whether and how Moscow and Washington continue to develop anti-missile systems in outer space and with the ABM Treaty, *which specifies the number of* anti-missile systems permitted.

The INF Treaty, with its provisions for spot checks, is currently being scrutinised in detail by the US Senate, experts having claimed that the Soviet Union stands to gain preferential treatment *in the access to production facilities* envisaged.

It would be embarrassing for President Reagan if the INF Treaty were not to be ratified in time for the Moscow summit, and still more so if the Senate were to stymie the INF Treaty (as well as Salt 2).

In the euphoric atmosphere that prevailed in Washington after the INF Treaty had been signed hardly anyone imagined there might be such difficulties over interpretation within a mere six months.

The criticism of the inspection provisions that has been voiced comes as a particularly severe blow to those who feel the INF Treaty marks a special step forward on this point.

They are convinced it does justice both to America's security interests and to those of America's Nato partners in Europe.

The Start treaty draft comprises roughly 350 pages, including 1,200 points dealing with unsolved and disputed issues.

They include at least half a dozen fundamental problems relating to the two sides' security policy concepts.

They mainly concern how the number of sea-based cruise missiles and their warheads can be checked and whether Washington must modify its strategic defence initiative (SDI) if the Start Treaty is to go ahead.

The main bone of contention is whether the Soviet Union can be allowed to retain mobile land-based intercontinental ballistic missiles as long as it is doubtful whether the United States *will go ahead with the deployment* of its long-range MX and smaller, more mobile (and hence less vulnerable) Midgetman missiles.

Critical Senators have pointed out that Moscow already has two targeted nuclear warheads for every land-based US Midgetman missile in being.

President Reagan will have great difficulty in satisfying his domestic critics. It would be pointless to force *the terms of an agreement in time* for the Moscow summit as a political showcase.

The Start Treaty will need to be given priority by Mr Reagan's successor and made ratifiable, especially as arms limitation is an accompaniment to, and *not a substitute for, security policy.*

In the euphoria that prevailed after the Washington summit wishful thinking came into its own in the Federal Republic and may yet prove dangerous for the security and cohesion of the Western alliance.

This is particularly the case in respect of bids for conventional disarmament "from the Atlantic to the Urals."

The Nato countries must try to persuade the Warsaw Pact to forgo its superiority in tanks, aircraft and manpower, yet they can offer little or nothing in return without jeopardising their own security.

East-West ties must not, of course, *be seen solely in the security policy* context. Military problems are an effect, not a cause, of East-West tension.

President Reagan will be wondering

Continued on page 2

President Reagan (left) with a photo of himself and Nancy taken when they were in Berlin. It was a gift from Berlin Mayor Diepgen, who was in the US.

Reagan to take up the case of Berlin at Moscow summit

DIE WELT

President Reagan plans to mention Berlin in his Moscow summit talks with General Secretary Gorbachov; he will again demand a specific Soviet answer to his 1987 Berlin initiative.

Governing Mayor Eberhard Diep*gen of Berlin was reassured on this* point in a 30-minute discussion in the Oval Office with President Reagan, Vice-President Bush and US national security adviser Powell.

"What I wanted to ensure in this and my other talks in Washington was that Berlin is practically included in all progress envisaged in East-West talks and that full use is made of all resulting opportunities for the city," Mayor Diepgen said.

He had been given clear and satisfactory assurances on this point. In his talk with the President he had concentrated on two aspects of President Reagan's four-point Berlin initiative:

- efforts to make Berlin an interna*tional convention and trade fair centre*
- and to boost the city's role as a turntable of international civil aviation.

"The result of this aviation initiative," he told reporters in the US capital, "ought to be that German citizens can fly by German airlines to the capital of the German people."

He made frequent and deliberate references to Berlin as the capital of the German people and meant the city as a whole.

Civil aviation in the heart of Europe and between the two German states must be ensured, including Berlin as a *location and scrapping the sole right to* fly to and from the city enjoyed by Allied airlines.

"I am most satisfied with the results of my talks here in Washington," he said. "US policy trends with regard to Berlin tally with the political objectives of the Berlin Senate.

"I have told everyone I conferred with that Berlin is the city all Americans must visit to see for themselves and understand the problems of a divided Europe."

His final talks in the US capital were with Secretary of State Shultz and also dealt mainly with President Reagan's Berlin initiative.

Mayor Diepgen had earlier conferred in camera with national security adviser Powell and met leading Congressmen, such as Senators Dole and Lugar and Rep. Thomas Foley, Democratic majority leader in the House of Representatives.

Fritz Wirth
(Die Welt, Bonn, 30 April 1988)

IN THIS ISSUE

■ WORLD AFFAIRS

Greece and Turkey: ticklish problem for Europe

Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the long-serving German Foreign Minister, is accustomed to success. It isn't often that he has to admit to failure.

As chairman of the European Community's Council of Minister he fell foul of the dispute between Greece and Turkey when Ankara called off a Luxembourg meeting of the council of association on account of Cyprus.

The conflict potential between Greece and Turkey has again proved one of the most serious obstacles to a return to normal in relations between Turkey and the European Community.

They were seriously affected by the 1980 military coup in Ankara. The return to normal has been gradual, in keeping with the gradual return to democracy since 1986.

Part of this return to normal was to have been the proposed meeting of the council of association to discuss important individual economic problems.

They were to have included:

- the incomplete customs union,
- freedom of movement for Turkish workers (a crucial issue for the Federal Republic of Germany in particular)
- and implementation of the fourth finance protocol, which holds forth the prospect of 600 million Ecus (roughly DM1.3bn) for Turkey.

This Turkish sensitivity took Herr Genscher and his associates by surprise. Ankara called off the meeting after the Twelve had agreed on an initial declaration stating that the Cyprus issue affected relations between Turkey and the European Community.

This was evidently rated too highly as a success by the Greeks, which only goes to show how sensitive relations between them are despite the rapprochement inaugurated in Davos by Premiers Özal and Papandreou last January.

Political disputes are evidently still in progress on both sides on the pace at which to proceed.

The signing of the 25-year-old treaty of association between the European Community and Turkey by Greece sounded promising.

But Athens made it clear in advance of the proposed Luxembourg meeting that it would not agree to the release of funds to Turkey while Ankara continued to occupy Cyprus and to violate human rights.

These funds, earmarked by the terms of the fourth finance protocol, are also blocked by a decision of the European Parliament.

Herr Genscher now bases his hopes on undertakings given by Ali Bozer, Turkish Minister for European Affairs, just after the Luxembourg meeting was called off.

He was told by the Turkish Minister that Ankara would be proposing a fresh date for the association council meeting. It would, he said, be some time before the end of June and the end of Germany's term in the chair at the European Community.

In the meantime, issues due for discussion at the meeting must be shelved. Turkey is, for instance, dragging its feet on the customs union agreed by the terms of the 1970 treaty of association.

Much to the European Community's annoyance Ankara has diluted the latest round of tariff cuts by a number of subterfuges such as simultaneous tax increases.

Freedom of movement throughout the European Community for Turkish workers, as guaranteed in principle by the 1963 association treaty, is a problem that still awaits solution.

Turkey has yet to reply to the joint position agreed by the European Community in November 1986.

It limited freedom of access to European Community labour markets to Turkish citizens already legally employed in member-countries.

Turkish workers may only bring wives or husbands with them. Children too, of course, but subject to an age limit for children born in Turkey.

It is largely left to member-governments to lay down the age level that is to apply.

Turkey is to enjoy preferential treatment in the allocation of jobs for which there are no suitable applicants from European Community countries.

The remainder of the Community's November 1986 declaration deals for the most part with improvements in the integration of migrant workers' children.

The Federal Republic of Germany is the country that would be most seriously affected by complete freedom of movement for Turkish workers.

It already houses about 85 per cent of the 1.5 million Turkish residents in European Community countries.

The problem has, of course, taken on a new dimension since Ali Bozer submitted Turkey's official application to join the European Community on 14 April 1987.

Ankara has always made it clear that it sees a close connection between freedom of movement and full membership of the European Community, to both of which it is entitled in principle by the terms of the association treaty.

No-one knows how long freedom of movement can be shelved while Turkey's application for full membership is considered (which will doubtless be a lengthy process).

Economically, Turkey is not yet ready to join the European Community, or so many pundits feel. Besides, the Community has still not fully digested past new members — either institutionally or economically.

Last but not least, any consideration of Turkey's application must take difficult aspects of alliance policy and cultural and social issues into account.

So the European Community seems sure to have wide-ranging difficulties in its relations with Turkey for some time to come.

Ties between Greece and Turkey will naturally play a major role in any immediate, pragmatic improvement in the terms of association.

They will decide whether Herr Genscher is justified in hoping he will be able to hold the aborted Luxembourg meeting by the end of June.

Eberhard Wissdorf

(Handelsblatt, Düsseldorf, 27 April 1988)

Arms control

Continued from page 1

what he can offer Moscow to smooth the path to a further treaty.

Nato in contrast must soberly, level-headedly define its security requirements in order to ensure that it has the necessary military and political wherewithal to cope with them.

Tension that has existed for over 40 years cannot be eliminated overnight; references to the "cloak of history" are ambiguous.

Above all, arms control must not be misused to make domestic policy mileage. It is far too complicated and important issue for that.

The present phase is one of disillusionment. It could be salutary for Western Europeans on their way to a new dream world and carelessly jeopardising alliance ties.

Jan Reifenberg

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 2 May 1988)

What sort of Poland will Kohl visit?

Helmut Kohl is due to visit Poland this autumn. He will be the first Christian Democratic Federal Chancellor ever to pay Warsaw an official visit.

But what state will the country be in and which leadership will be his host?

The answers will depend not only on German-Polish relations as they alternate between attraction and repulsion but on domestic trends in Poland, where fresh upsets seem imminent.

Current events in a number of Polish cities and factories inevitably call to mind the summer of 1980, when a fairly minor event, a railwaymen's strike in eastern Poland, so upset the foundations of Polish society that it nearly brought the communist system tumbling down.

The present clash between the workers and the government is also only apparent at a few hot spots: public transport in a number of cities, and steelworkers, especially in Nowa Huta, near Cracow.

As in 1980, these strikes could spread rapidly. They are an open imitation to others to follow suit, and conditions that prompt steelworkers in Nowa Huta to strike are unlikely to be much better for shipyard workers in Gdansk.

An arguably even more important factor is that the social and political conflict of the early 1980s, brought to a halt by the proclamation of martial law, has produced a working class skilled in small-scale warfare with the Party and the government.

Its know-how in this sector is readily apparent. A widespread pluralism of opinions, tolerated if not institutionalised from above, ensures the existence of an extensive communication system.

Solidarity, the erstwhile independent trade union, may be banned but it is neither dead nor inactive.

Its hand is clearly in evidence at Nowa Huta, with the result that the official trade union, the OPZZ, which has never done exactly what it was told by the government, has had to join the fray in the bid to gain substantial wage increases.

But Solidarity activists well recall the aftermath of martial law, proclaimed in December 1981. Both sides will recall what happened then and the lessons they learnt may prompt them to decide in favour of restraint.

Yet one serious distinction must be drawn between then and now. In 1980 people were sick and tired of promises; today they are hungry.

That makes them restive, and this unrest cannot be appeased by mere words. This time the government has made no promises, and if it did no-one would believe it.

From the economic viewpoint its actions are not entirely senseless. It has increased prices time and again to reduce subsidies and make capital available for investment and to cream off purchasing power for which no goods are available.

That was part of the reform package. The government has skipped the other by failing to encourage private initiative and to impose curbs on the gigantic bureaucracy.

Last but not least, the government has largely met wage and other welfare demand to ease political pressure from below. It has not been able to prevent certain sections of society, especially pensioners, large families and low-income earners from backsliding into the poverty zone.

Poland's situation seems to defy solution, with no way out apparent for either the people or the regime.

Improvements by way of glasnost or perestroika, as in the Soviet Union, are unlikely to change matters. There isn't much more to reconstruct, and what can be clearly seen is more likely to paralyse Poles than to inspire them.

Is there any way in which the West, and especially the Federal Republic, can help the Poles?

Polish officials have done themselves and their fellow-countrymen a disservice by claiming the West had granted Poland loans with the sole purpose of making it malleable and dependent.

It is hardly surprising that the burden of $40bn of debts weighs heavily on Poland and that Poles are starting to talk in terms of Western creditors *hoping* to earn interest rates verging on *usury*.

Yet even if Polish officials tell the truth and admit that they borrowed the money in a flight of development fancy without really knowing how best to invest it, the fact remains that debtors and creditors are are inseparably interlinked.

What is more, their relationship can assume serious political proportions when, as was apparent at a recent conferent held at the Protestant Church academy in Loccum, near Hanover, resentment is on the increase.

Polish officials tend to use the Federal Republic as a bogyman by which to instil fear. In Polish eyes Bonn has no interests, merely an uneasy conscience.

Conversely, Bonn policymakers seem keen on strange and unrealistic demands such as memorials in Auschwitz and Rastenburg (where the Germans are unlikely to be forgotten in any case).

If, as the Bonn government feels, the time has come to put an end to the affair, why not draw the line below the debts?

Josef Riedmiller

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, Munich, 29 April 1988)

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■ HOME AFFAIRS

An unknown is picked as new Defence Minister

Rupert Scholz, a Berlin senator, is to be Bonn's new Defence Minister. He will replace Manfred Wörner, who later this year takes over from Lord Carrington as Nato secretary general. The articles on this page look at the new man and the tasks he faces.

It is a normal fact of political life that ministers come and go. But it is not normal for shrouds of secrecy to be thrown over changes.

And the case of the appointment of Rupert Scholz as the ninth Defence Minister was, indeed, shrouded in mystery.

The successor to Manfred Wörner is relatively unknown to the politicians and military officials with whom he will now have to discuss the future of the Bundeswehr.

Scholz faces a difficult task. His predecessor in office has taken stock of his achievements during the various farewell gatherings held in his honour.

Wörner claims that the Bundeswehr has never been in such good shape as it is today. This is true, but only if "today" is viewed as the operative word.

The surplus of young conscripts born in high birth-rate years still ensures an adequate number of recruits.

More and more young men are joining the Bundeswehr voluntarily for a longer period of military service.

Furthermore, the Bundeswehr has some highly modern military equipment.

But what's the use of the best-looking building if the foundations are shaky?

Although Wörner has inserted a number of supporting pillars his successor is left with the job of a general overhaul.

Wörner was an expert, a specialist minister. His achievements prove the point: he initiated procurement projects for new weapons, eliminated the promotion backlog for officers via his controversial early retirement scheme, and extended compulsory military service to a period of 18 months.

With his strong affinity to the military way of thinking Wörner continued traditional policy lines.

All this worked providing the facts and figures were on his side: plenty of recruits and plenty of money. But the fat years are coming to an end.

Wörner was already obliged to make his first cuts in his "Forces Structure 2000" plan.

Many military officials are already sounding the alarm and are convinced that the operational strength of the Bundeswehr is in jeopardy.

Wörner's successor will have to carry the can for the fact that Wörner's plans and forecasts have turned out to be much too optimistic.

The aim in future, however, will not just be to manoeuvre the Bundeswehr through the bottlenecks as smoothly as possible.

Defence policy is embedded in a difficult context.

The international situation, the "threat", and all the accompanying psychological aspects influence the degree of significance attached to defence issues within the domestic policy framework.

The conservative union has repeatedly expressed its concern that the new phase of detente, symbolised by the disarmament proposals forwarded by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachov, may in the long run undermine citizen commitment to a proper defence policy.

Bonn's general line of defence policy will still be to try and find doors to greater security in the East-West dialogue.

This, however, is the task of the government's "general" policy. The Defence Minister can take on the role of the detente pessimist.

Scholz, a conservative expert on



Avoids being labelled . . . Scholz.

(Photo: Sven Simon)

Deutschlandpolitik and Berlin, may add an unusually *political* emphasis to this role.

The new man in the Defence Ministry will have mainly politico-strategic decisions to make over the next few years.

How can the necessary peacekeeping strength of the Bundeswehr be defined?

How consistently can the reservists concept be pursued in a society which is not too keen on the traditional conservative interpretation of the need for defence?

Which modern weapons can the Bundeswehr still afford — and what does this mean for deterrence?

Is Scholz likely to come up with new ideas? He is felt to be a "Chancellor's man".

However, even a brilliant conservative politician will find it difficult to convey the meaningfulness of a Bundeswehr and the Nato strategy to a "post-modern" welfare and individualistic society.

To begin with, Scholz is faced by the restraining influence of the facts and figures. The most urgent task for the new Defence Minister is to appraise his room to manoeuvre.

If he wants to give the Defence Ministry fresh impetus the sooner he starts the better.

Arnd Bäucker

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 27 April 1988)

Law professor Scholz's path to the Cabinet

Rupert Scholz knows his way around Bonn. For over five years he has not only been Justice Senator but also Senator for Federal Affairs in Berlin.

During this period he has spent at least two days a week in Bonn.

He is reputed to have a close rapport with Chancellor Kohl, who admires the balanced and objective judgement of the experienced constitutional law expert on political issues, especially Deutschlandpolitik and political questions relating to Berlin.

Insiders already felt that 50-year-old Scholz, who was born in Berlin and whose father was an architect, had ministerial qualities.

Scholz probably feels the same way, although in public he would tend to underrate rather than overrate his abilities.

He studied jurisprudence in Berlin and Heidelberg and obtained his doctorate and professorship in Munich.

He is entitled to lecture in constitutional, administrative, commercial and labour law.

Between 1972 and 1978 he was professor for public law at the Free University of Berlin, then moved to Munich, was the co-author of the most significant commentary to the Basic Law, and was brought back to Berlin by the mayor Richard von Weizsäcker in 1981 and appointed Justice Senator.

Scholz is regarded as a centre-right politician. He cleverly avoids being labelled, but his views on some of Deutschlandpolitik are very close to the CSU.

Scholz's wife is a Federal Court judge in Karlsruhe. She usually travels to Berlin at weekends.

He is very keen on music and likes spending his holidays skiing in the Alps or visiting the North Sea coast.

Liselotte Müller

(Mannheimer Morgen, 26 April 1988)

The hot seat: pressure is on even before changeover takes place

Demands are already raining in on Rupert Scholz — even though he has not yet taken over as Minister of Defence.

The Bundeswehr Association wants him to do more to improve the social situation of soldiers.

The SPD has called on him — he is an authority on constitutional law — to do more to safeguard soldiers' rights.

The CDU and CSU hope he will be a better match for Bonn's popular Foreign Minister, Hans-Dietrich Genscher (FDP) on arms-control policy.

Other demands are likely to follow: the Bundeswehr wants more money than allocated in the budget and in medium-term fiscal planning; both the air force and the aviation industry would like the official go-ahead to be given as soon as possible for the construction of the Jäger 90 aircraft; Bonn's Nato partners, the USA in particular, will insist that Bonn speeds up the modernisation of its arms potential.

All those with a say in security policy, it seems, are pinning high hopes on the new man in the Bonn Defence Ministry.

There is a certain similarity between the transition from Manfred Wörner to Scholz and the situation in 1978 when Georg Leber — albeit under completely different circumstances — handed over the job of Defence Minister to Hans Apel.

At that time a minister who "got on well" with the soldiers had initiated a general renewal of the Bundeswehr and his successor "only" had to pay for it. Wörner has also set developments in motion which are likely to cause Scholz plenty of headaches.

The Franco-German anti-tank helicopter PAH 2 and the Jäger 90 aircraft, both joint projects with other Nato partners, are two examples.

It is hoped that these two projects will reinforce the arms industry basis of the Europeans and at the same time strengthen Europe's conventional defence powers.

The projects, however, are not exactly low-cost and similar equipment is on sale in the USA.

In addition, there are numerous programmes to step up the combat value of older weapon systems which cannot yet be replaced.

Like Leber, Wörner leaves behind the task of a structural reform of the armed forces.

So far plans have only been drawn up in a bureaucratic ivory tower, but are nowhere being finalised, let alone tested.

The reform sets out to make the impossible possible: to boost the Bundeswehr's combat strength even though the number of persons liable for military service is declining.

Fortunately for Scholz the concept includes a magic word: flexibility.

This means: we don't yet know exactly what is going to happen and we have to be prepared.

This is impossible, however, without more money. Plenty of money is needed to make a career in the armed forces more attractive, to pay more reservists instead of conscripts (reservists cost almost three times the amount), and to buy modern equipment to plug existing gaps.

Wörner and his generals repeatedly asked for more money. Many military officials have already made it clear that if no more money is provided the armed forces will have to be thinned out and resources stretched.

In this case Scholz might have trouble with his alliance partners.

Following nuclear disarmament Nato has given priority to increasing conventional defence capability.

And who wants to cut back his own troop strength at a time when negotiations with the potential enemy are being planned on mutual troop reduction?

What is more, Bonn may risk giving the wrong signal to its alliance partners.

If Bonn has to reduce its own forces then why shouldn't Belgium or Holland, where there is a stronger desire to do so anyway, do the same? Or even the USA, where the demand for a withdrawal of troops from Europe is very popular?

So Scholz moves into the hot seat at a time of many demands and great uncertainty.

It seems impossible to come to terms with the contradictions: obsolete weapon systems must be replaced, but fewer items from new systems can be bought with the money available; troop strength will decrease even though it must not — so everyone acts as if it has not; this costs more money which is then not there for equipment; the alliance agrees on the aim of future disarmament agreements but the nature and sequence of action remains controversial.

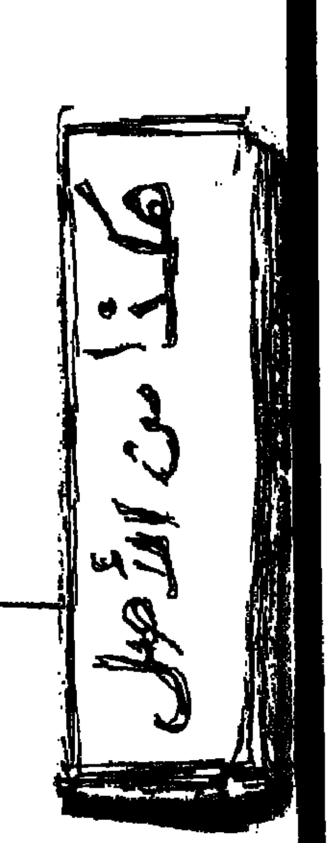
Anyone wanting to work through such a mountain of problems needs political expertise and staying power.

Scholz, who only joined the CDU in 1983, still has to acquire both in this field.

He starts with only his "power base" in a ministry in which many a stalwart politician before him failed.

Detlef Puhl

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 27 April 1988)



■ POLITICS

Lafontaine remarks on pay anger union leaders

Saarland Premier Oskar Lafontaine got a rough ride at a meeting of Social Democrat leaders and trade-union chiefs called to clear up remarks by him that reductions in working hours should be accompanied by cuts in pay. Observers reported that after a tense meeting, Lafontaine agreed to withdraw his criticism that trade-union pay policies were causing a redistribution of income from low-income to higher-income groups. Berndt Knebel, reporting on the meeting for *Hannoversche Allgemeine*, says some people think Lafontaine is trying to develop an anti-trade-union image in the belief that this would boost his chances of being chosen by the SPD as its candidate for Chancellor in the 1990 general election.

It looks as if the SPD and the trade unions have settled their differences over the question of reduced working hours.

In a meeting between SPD leaders and the executive committee of the German Trade Union Federation (DGB) and its chairman agreement was reached on fundamental aspects of the issue.

SPD deputy chairman and Saar Premier Oskar Lafontaine, whose remarks that a reduction of working hours should be accompanied by a loss of pay caused the stir in the first place, did not reiterate his demands after the meeting.

During the meeting Lafontaine was given a five-hour dressing down by the leader of the engineering workers' union, Franz Steinkühler, the railway workers' trade unionist, Ernst Haar, the chairman of the postal workers' union, Kurt van Haaren, and the leader of the chemical workers' union, Hermann Rappe.

According to one of the over 40 people at the meeting Lafontaine was given a really rough ride.

Everyone knew what was politically at stake and the atmosphere was really tense.

Things only became more relaxed after a picture fell off the wall with a crash just as the chairwoman of the public-service and transport workers' union, Monika Wulf-Mathies, was voicing her restrained criticism.

SPD politicians who wanted to help Oskar Lafontaine out of his predicament, such as Peter Glotz, came in for some strong criticism.

Glotz told the unions that they should appreciate the need for an approach by the SPD which appeals to new groups of voters, for example, the technological intelligentsia and high-income earners.

Kurt von Haaren then ironically asked what Glotz and Lafontaine had in mind, seeing as they wanted to reduce incomes. Glotz was stumped for an answer.

Lafontaine withdrew his accusation that the pay policy pursued by the trade unions was bringing about a redistribution of income from low-income to higher-income groups, assuring the unions that he would not repeat this accusation.

There was unreserved praise for the two men who chaired the conference, SPD leader Hans-Jochen Vogel and DGB chairman Ernst Breit.

Vogel and Breit deserve a great deal of credit for the compromise agreement reached that no employee should get less pay if working hours are reduced.

Vogel presented this as the outcome of the talks and Ernst Breit accepted the arrangement on behalf of the DGB without the official seal of approval of all trade union leaders. Tricky bones of contention still remain.

Anke Fuchs, the SPD business manager in Bonn, said that the most important achievement of the conference was that the two organisations, the SPD and the DGB, were back on talking terms.

Discussions will continue on the differentiation of pay increases and the general role of gainful employment in society.

Frau Fuchs took up a statement made by Steinkühler who claimed that the "constraints of the old milieu no longer exist for both sides" and that the SPD and the unions need not necessarily march side by side in future over every issue.

Steinkühler already emphasised this point during a major demonstration back in 1981 against the policies of the Bonn government led by Helmut Schmidt (SPD).

The SPD cautiously refers to reforms which, as opposed to the unions, it tentatively supports, such as longer evening working hours for the services sector and a reform of the postal system.

The SPD also sees a possible solidarity contribution by higher-income earners in a different light. A demand for a supplemental income tax for those in the higher-income bracket now seems unlikely.

Instead, the SPD would like to do away with the linearisation of the progressive tax rate for higher-income groups. Frau Fuchs stressed that an additional sacrifice cannot be expected once this has been achieved.

However, this position is only temporary. If the coalition's tax reform bill becomes law, as expected towards the middle of 1989, the SPD will have to do some "rethinking", says the initiator of the SPD's alternative tax reform concept, Hans Apel.

Following the "tough and brutal" dispute between the DGB and Lafontaine however, it seems doubtful whether the big "peace agreement" will last.

Anke Fuchs feels that it would help "if the men stopped immediately saying what they think in public."

Some observers feel that Lafontaine needs conflict with the trade unions and that only an anti-unionist image will improve his chances of becoming the SPD's chancellorship candidate for the 1990 general election.

An image as a leader of a German "Labour Party", sticking to a strictly trade-unionist course, they say, would get him nowhere.

If this is true then Steinkühler's wish would be fulfilled: Steinkühler wished Lafontaine political success, but only in his native Saarland.

Bernd Knebel

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 27 April 1988)

Bonn put under pressure over dole funding

A row is brewing between the Bonn government and the *Länder* over how social security payments should be funded. *Länder* which feel they are shouldering too much of the burden want Bonn to help out with cash. Main bone of contention is over the heavy increase in the number of people classed as long-term unemployed who do not qualify for any of the various federally funded unemployment benefits. The Premier of Lower Saxony, Ernst Albrecht, is heading the protest. Although he is a Christian Democrat, he has threatened to withdraw support for the government's tax reform scheme when it goes before the Bundesrat (Upper House) if Bonn doesn't act. Günter Brozio wrote this story for *Saarbrücker Zeitung*.

Bonn Chancellor Helmut Kohl and the premiers of the CDU-led *Länder* have been unable to agree on how to redistribute the costs of social security payments.

At present the *Länder* and the municipalities pay out roughly DM20bn for welfare assistance.

The municipalities claim that there has been a dramatic increase in the number of people who rely on payments.

They say this is primarily due to a big increase in the number of persons classed as the "long-term unemployed" who receive neither unemployment money (from the Federal Labour Office) nor unemployment assistance (from the Federal Treasury).

Länder which have big economic problems are demanding that the Federal Government in Bonn finance a share.

Lower Saxony Premier Ernst Albrecht (CDU) heads this movement. His legislative initiative, to be discussed by the Bundesrat, calls on Bonn to pay half the costs.

But he suggests that the *Länder* let the Federal Government have four percentage points of the value added tax revenue each *Land* receives, roughly DM5bn altogether, so that it does not have to finance the envisaged DM10bn for assistance in one go.

The Lower Saxony initiative was already backed by a majority in the Bundesrat committees, which would indicate its acceptance by a Bundesrat majority.

This is where the political side of Albrecht's initiative, which is not only backed by the "poor" CDU-led *Länder*, but also by the SPD-led *Länder* Saarland, Hamburg, Bremen and North Rhine-Westphalia, begins.

Bavaria, Rhineland-Palatinate, Hesse and Baden-Württemberg are against the proposal.

So, the CDU/SPD alliance developing in the Bundesrat is not to the government's liking.

Trouble is brewing: Albrecht has threatened not to back the government's tax reform in the Bundesrat if it refuses to back his proposal.

The Bonn government will have to face up to a renewed test of its stability.

It will be interesting to see how the problem is resolved.

If Albrecht and a Bundesrat majority do force the Bonn government to accept a compromise, the solution to the problem will have to found with the help of the Bundestag and coalition partners who will then have to deal with the Bundesrat proposal.

Günter Brozio

(Saarbrücker Zeitung, 26 April 1988)

■ BERLIN: 1988 EURO CULTURAL CAPITAL

A spirit suspended between the past and the future

Berlin (West) owes to Melina Mercouri, Greece's charming Arts Minister, its selection as this year's European cultural capital.

It follows in the footsteps of Athens, Florence and Amsterdam and will itself be followed by Paris and Glasgow next year and the year after.

Berlin, incidentally, prefers to style itself "European cultural city" and is well aware that it does not owe its accolade to the splendour of its history.

It sees itself as a "venue of the new" and a "workshop" of the modern arts.

In the process it can at least refer to the 1920s, a decade in which the world's artistic avantgarde really was out in strength on the Spree.

Cosmopolitanism and a liberal outlook, tolerance and the courage to embark on experiments, to test the alien and unknown: these are the virtues to which the city lays claim.

They testify to the spirit of a city suspended between past and future, a city that has lived for decades with a makeshift political status, and they do so more convincingly than rhetorical claims to lost status as a capital city or a metropolis.

Last year's lavish celebrations to mark the 750th anniversary of the founding of the city reduced to this hard core any illusions there may have been of Berlin as a European cultural metropolis rich in artistic tradition.

Berlin's attraction is based more than ever on its eagerness to know all about contemporary trends and new ideas.

Its role must be one of developing and discussing new ideas, of fostering understanding by means of international cultural exchange and of serving as a bridge between East and West.

That is the political opportunity and the cultural task for an island city which is both in the heart and on the outskirts of Europe.

This point was made by all speakers at the ceremony held in the Orangerie of Charlottenburg Castle to inaugurate "Berlin — European Cultural City 1988."

They were Governing Mayor Eberhard Diepgen, Spanish Premier Felipe Gonzalez and Bonn Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher.

Genscher even said he expected centres outside the European Community, such as Warsaw, Prague or Leningrad, would one day qualify.

Cracow and Budapest are already said to be rival candidates. Dresden would still be a difficult decision; it makes culture's dependence on freedom and freedom of movement clear.

Words and fanfares were heard at Charlottenburg Castle. A threadbare cultural *Frühschoppen*, or Sunday motning talk show, was held in the Big Top of the Tempodrom. A jumbo party was held in the Kongresshalle.

It remains to be seen whether such a loose programme arrangement must really be seen in the context of the provisional nature, or workshop character, of the special arts season. The official programme magazine certainly stresses that all dates are provisional.

It also remains to be seen how much this "venue of the new" will accomplish by way of artistic innovation.

For the time being it is totally concealed by the overwhelming façade of a heavyweight programme featuring archaeological and historical exhibitions ranging from Mycenae and Rome to Istanbul.

Magnificent though these exhibitions will no doubt be, they can hardly be said to set an avantgarde keynote.

Sceptical voices have been raised in the city wondering whether the expense, DM400m in subsidies, of a super-festival so large as to be virtually impossible for one person to "consume" will be worthwhile.

There have even been fears that lean years will lie ahead, with big cuts in arts expenditure after the extra outlay on last year's 750th anniversary celebrations and this year's cultural city season.

For the time being, however, art and the arts, including the alternative scene in Kreuzberg, stand to benefit from the general climate and the cash inflow.

So will people in traditionally poor districts such as Moabit, Kreuzberg and Wedding, which used to be classified — and looked down on — as working-class inner-city suburbs.

They benefit from arts budget expenditure on urban renewal under the watchful and suspicious eye of officials in charge of historic monuments.

In Wedding, for instance, disused factory buildings have been converted into art studios.

Neglected examples transport and industrial architecture, such as the former Hamburger Bahnhof, are being restored, converted and upgraded at great expense as theatres, concert halls, exhibition facilities and arts centres.

The capacity of these new facilities built from the ruins of wartime destruction is, as yet, greater than the artistic creativity that exists to fill the space newly available.

There is certainly no shortage of facilities. Two thousand people (standing room only) saw Dressed to Thrill, a fashion show at the Hamburger Bahnhof.

Staged by Berlin couturier Claudia Skodaim and unblushingly billed as a new idea in multi-media presentation, the show was held on a platform 60 metres (200ft) long.

What the public saw, in a longwinded ritual along what once was a station platform, was merely a fashion show for snobs, staged with a little imagination and a dash of irony, with colour and light, with fireworks and choreographical gags.

It was a show for snobs who can afford to buy fashion ranging from punk and slit-open knitwear to folklore and pseudo-historical styles. It was also a somewhat tiring gag that was neither worth the expense nor did justice to what it claimed to be.

The arts programme, with its wide range of highlights in all departments, cannot be measured by media spectacular yardsticks. In the final analysis the individual achievement and level of performance is all that counts.

But the somewhat disillusioning start to the programme of "innovations" is a reminder of how reluctant the arts are to allowed themselves to be bossed around and, in a word, programmed.

Berlin would never have been nominated as a "cultural city" had it not been for art and arts constantly taking shape, often in the face of stiff resistance by arts officialdom, and eventually (and invariably too late) gaining official recognition.

Wolfgang Rainer

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 26 April 1988)

In Berlin to mark its reign as European Cultural Capital: from left, Spain's Prime Minister, Felipe Gonzalez; Bonn Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher; and the Greek Minister for the Arts, Melina Mercouri. The story below discusses what is planned, including some negative aspects. (Photo: Mrotzkowski)

Role of an arts policy in a divided city

The "European cultural capital" idea is based on individual initiative rather than on long-term planning within the European Community.

Greek Arts Minister Melina Mercouri suggested several years ago that Europe ought for once to be discussed in terms of the arts as a common denominator and not solely in terms of farm surpluses.

This led to the idea of an annual "European cultural capital" being proclaimed in successive member-countries, a "capital city" in which the arts could come into their own.

First was Athens, in 1985, followed by Florence and Amsterdam. Berlin has modestly preferred to style itself "European cultural city," but this modesty is not in keeping with the budget.

The city plans to spend DM53m, which will make the 1988 cultural city programme the most expensive yet.

The initial idea was to hold a European event in which mention was not constantly made of money. In Berlin it is constantly mentioned, especially now the arts are seen as an economic and public relations factor.

The calamitous equation of arts expenditure with turnover in the hotel and catering trades casts the arts in a role in which, in the long term, it is bound to come to grief: that of a tourist animator and an economic booster.

It does Senator Hassemer's arts officials credit that they have resisted the temptation to take over the reins of the programme and, more important still and unlike last year, have largely resisted the temptation to stage mere spectaculars in a bid to attract record numbers of visitors.

This year's programme of music, drama, art, arts history and — newly ennobled — fashion and design is fully in keeping with the high standards the city has set for decades.

One is bound to add that, as in the case of last year's 750th anniversary celebrations, many events that would have been held in any case have been billed as special features of the festival fare.

Details of the programme of events cannot, however, be the yardstick by which the results can be assessed.

The crucial factor is the political benefit to be derived from the award of the "cultural city" accolade, made by the Council of Arts Minister and approved by the European Community.

Incorporation of the city in the political framework of the West, subject to essential Allied rights, and its continued integration in the European Community may be a constant practice and a matter of course.

But to have lent it such visible and undramatic expression in the "cultural city" context, thereby nestling the divided city, with its enforced special status, in a European perspective, strengthens its position in the East-West context too.

Arts policy alone is not enough to go about the arduous business of detente, but it is certainly a factor, not to say a raising agent. This point has increasingly been taken, especially in smaller Eastern European countries, since Helsinki and the CSCE review conferences.

Budapest appears to have made informal enquiries whether it might not take over as a European cultural capital in the early 1990s. That lends a truly European dimension to what initially was a decidedly abstract idea.

Let us remember the common denominators of the rich and varied European arts scene and the obligations imposed by our common European heritage. That is surely a way in which detente may lead to borders between the blocs being transcended, if not eliminated.

"Berlin in the Heart of Europe," one of the three keynotes of the "cultural city" programme, has been paid least attention in the programme as so far announced.

Yet here too the perspective is more important than details of the calendar of events.

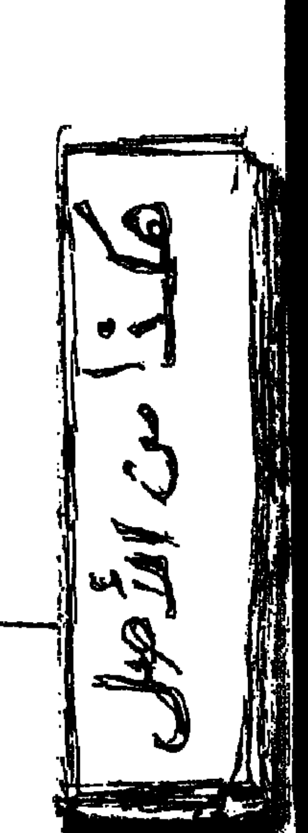
If, as seems likely, contributions are made by Eastern European countries, overcoming the GDR's dogged resistance to arrive at a more realistic view of the situation of Berlin (West), the "cultural city" outlay will have been well worthwhile financially.

Mention has often been made, in the irksome context of a role for the city, of it being a "turntable between East and West," but it has seldom amounted to more than vague and usually unrealistic ideas.

As a cultural metropolis, which it continues to be, Berlin can indeed be a turntable.

It can help Central Europe as a cultural region to rediscover its identity prior to its resurrection one of these days as a political concept.

(Der Tagesspiegel, Berlin, 23 April 1988)



■ SOCIAL POLITICS

Tax, pensions, health insurance: living at expense of our children's children

Frankfurter Allgemeine

All political parties agree that the state should not pursue any kind of population policy.

The lessons of the Third Reich have not been forgotten and the Bonn government maintains a neutral stance.

A senior SPD member recently said: "Politicians are not called upon to bring about any particular population developments.

"Politicians should, however, do everything possible so that couples can come to a free decision about having children." What he said could just as easily have been said by a CDU/CSU politician.

This goal of freedom is, however, a long way away. For a decision to be "free", the state needs to ensure that no one group of society is disadvantaged by making such a decision.

That is not so now. A family with children, especially one with many children, comes off badly.

There is much more cash in the social benefits budget for elderly people than for families with children. It is clear that in social affairs policies not only is cash redistributed from the rich to the poor, but to a large extent from the young to the elderly.

It will remain like this into the foreseeable future. Tax relief for children and child allowance will never reach the levels parents need to give their children an adequate way of life, even after the current tax reform.

The legal system maintains that parents should shoulder the duty of providing for their children, which they can only partially charge against their tax liability, if at all.

It is uncertain whether this will ever be changed. The Baden-Württemberg tax and finance tribunal recently ruled that taxation on the income of parents who had to support children was unconstitutional, because the court considered the allowances for children inadequate. Now the Constitutional Court in Karlsruhe must decide.

Taxation apart there is nothing in old age pension arrangements to persuade couples to have a family.

Pensions rest on two pillars, contributions by members of the pension fund and the number of the younger generation contributing.

The size of a pension is calculated by only one of these criteria, namely contribution payments.

So long as the situation remains like this couples actually gain by not having children.

The same is true for health insurance. This functions today, and will continue to do so into the future undoubtedly, as an effective redistribution mechanism between the generations.

There is no link between health contribitions and health risks.

This means that the group whose medical needs increase about three times as fast as all other groups, that is pensioners, make a below-average contribution to health costs.

Here again needs and the burden of contributions are unequally distributed, to the advantage of the elderly.

Nevertheless the contributions elderly people make today are with absolute certainty smaller than those future generations will have to make.

The truth is that we are living, in this respect as in so many others, at the expense of our children's children.

If the state continues to deal with the generations in so dissimilar a way as it has done so far, it is only a matter of time before solidarity comes to an end. There is always talk about "a refusal to pay contributions."

Anyone wanting to avoid a collapse of the system should ensure that advantages and benefits are equal on average throughout life for all generations. This includes the advantages and benefits of the future.

There is a long way to go before this comes about, however.

Berlin's social affairs senator Ulf Fink said: "The great challenge of democratic change is not who will finance pensions in the future, but rather who will care for and look after old-age pensioners in the future when they need help?"

One thing is certain that financial and medical care cannot be separated from one another.

The whole matter is dependent on the readiness to meet the elderly courteously so that they feel that on the whole they are being dealt with in a fair and just manner.

If young people are not dissuaded from the view that they are only required as perspective contributors to health and old age pension funds and as taxpayers, then it is hardly surprising that they try to escape from their obligations using every trick possible.

It is equally not surprising that they say nothing about their readiness to care for and help others.

It cannot be excluded that a situation may arise that will stand the text of the old Latin students' song on its head. The song implies that the days of youth were pleasant, old age annoying.

Then old age would be pleasant, youth probably tedious.

What sympathy and altruism can be expected from only children who grow up in a world of old people?

These only children know that only a fraction of what they have given for others will be available for them. Everyone must answer this question for himself.

The 1793 Declaration of Human Rights said: "No generation may subjugate future generations to its laws."

For some time we have infringed this basic law. But that cannot go on forever.

Konrad Adam

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 25 April 1988)

Former MP heads a new CDU old-people-policy group

The Christian Democrats have set up an organisation to look after the interests of old people and contribute to party thinking on issues that affect them.

A former CDU member of the Bonn Bundestag, Gerhard Braun, was appointed chairman at a meeting to found the Senior Citizens Union.

Braun, who will be 65 at the end of this year, has been a member of the CDU since 1945.

Heiner Geissler, CDU general-secretary, puts a lot of faith in Braun's judgment in policies dealing with old-age pensions.

There had been a lot of speculation about who the first chairman might be. Some, mainly from Swabia, thought he should be former CDU generalsecretary Bruno Heck, 71, who is chairman of the Adenauer Foundation. In North Germany, speculation centred on Kai-Uwe von Hassel, 75.

Some people thought that Braun would just do Geissler's bidding and that there were too many like that already.

The clamour did not disturb the energetic Braun at all. He said: "I have devoted myself earlier to this matter than many others."

Braun is a Protestant businessman from Wermelskirchen, near Düsseldorf. He has two children and grandchildren. He has been a solid servant of the CDU. Without people like him the party would never have found its way out of the disputes of its early days.

What Gerhard Braun knows about the inner workings of the CDU could fill any number of best-seller volumes of his memoirs. But he does not write about what he knows.

He is concerned and interested about the party's future in which he sees a lack of understanding between the generations.

The state has done nothing. Guidelines for genuine policies for old people have not been drawn up.

Braun said: "Many do not see that these policies should no longer be just the old social welfare policies."

Gerhard Braun was a Bundstag member from 1972 to 1987. He has remained a man true to the party's fundamentals.

Before the war he trained in commerce. From 1941 until the war's end he was a soldier.

Not until 1947 was he able to take up his profession after the inferno of war. Then he was secretary of the Rhineland Junge Union, the young people's branch of the CDU. He held this job for eight years.

He then spent a year "in his civilian job," but in 1957 his political friends called on him again. Until 1966 he worked with the full-time party management in Cologne.

Then followed 12 years as managing director of a publishing house associated with the CDU.

He was an active local politician in Wermelskirchen and rose to the national committee of the CDU local government association.

Only now is a wider public discovering what people such as Braun can do.

What later was to become his new career began in 1978. In the Bundestag, Braun had worked on policies involving pensions, although he was not a member of the CDU social welfare policy committee. He took a lively interest in routine matters concerning senior citizens and put pressure on the SPD government of Chancellor Helmut Schmidt.

He formulated the first parliamentary question concerning old-age pensioners.

In 1984, after Kohl's coalition government came to power, the question was further considered with a view to future policies.

In 1985 he was given his reward. At the CDU party conference in Essen he was made his party's representative for old people's affairs.

He had not made himself available just to get an appointment. Quite the opposite. He linked his acceptance with his resolve to leave the Bundestag.

He said: "I wanted to make a point. No-one should think that the Senior Citizens Union could be misused as a means for consolidating or prolonging a parliamentary mandate. We have other things to do."

What he has worked on in his office can now be seen.

He said: "There is no-one in the federal government who can coordinate questions, or better still, answers, which are truly important for elderly people."

He pointed out that the Housing Minister, for example, gave his attention to his department, Family Affairs Minister Rita Süssmuth, whom he admires, gives her attention to her responsibilities.

He said that there must be someone concerned with old people's affairs "at Chancellery level."

An old-age pensioners' representative then? "No," he said. He does not want anything of that sort. He said that the position involved much more, "a mighty re-orientation of opinion" close to the Chancellor, so that the Cabinet could look in the right direction as one.

Much of his work will involve cutting red-tape. But he sees it as most important that citizens should understand how much shorter working life has become and how fast the "pensioned part of life" has increased.

He said that it must follow on from this that old people learning new things was not just an end in itself. He said that old people should get out and do something, earn money even.

The Senior Citizens Union is meant to point the way for the CDU. Braun said: "We don't want isolation but handing on experience to the next generations." But elderly people must learn that they must not lecture.

Braun does not believe in a rigid pensionable age. He said that it depended on the individual as well as the flexibility of job opportunities for elderly people. He again emphasised that here too people did not understand the situation properly.

"Who is aware that hardly ten per cent of workers retire at 65? Many retire far earlier," he said.

Gerhard Braun is keen to see that doctors and the nursing profession are better prepared for the special needs of elderly people. He said that further education in this special area must be introduced.

It is well known in CDU quarters that Gerhard Braun can express himself forcefully when he wants to. The Bonn government will be getting a taste of this.

No longer in the Bundestag he has set his sights on battling against the discriminating legislation dealing with the incapacitated. He said that supportive legislation was needed. Asked how his own health was, he answered: "No problems."

Jürgen Wahl

(Rheinischer Merkur/Christ und Welt, Bonn, 22 April 1988)

■ THE HANOVER FAIR

Even computer integration can't eliminate manpower

Computer-integrated manufacturing (CIM), as demonstrated by Gerhard Drunk at the Hanover Fair, looks just like a big box on invisible wheels.

Herr Drunk of the Fraunhofer Institute of Production Technology and Automation (IPA), Stuttgart, puts the box through its paces at the Intermatic special fair, the showcase of CIM at Hanover.

The box's lower four corners are clad in rubber bumpers like a scooter at the funfair. It is an unmanned robot transporter.

It is instructed by a computer where to go and what to do. Sophisticated sensors help it to skirt obstacles.

But interest in CIM seems to have grown less keen. Exhibitors earnestly explain their concepts to a handful of visitors who give them an interested but clearly sceptical hearing.

So much for the manufacturing technique of the future. Herr Drunk's presentation is an example of a simple computer-integrated production line, but it vividly demonstrates what CIM can do.

The IPA's model factory manufactures, for demonstration purposes, luminous diodes in various quantities and colours.

The customer, having placed a special order, is seen at a terminal where his order is noted and entered into the computer.

The computer then relays the information automatically to all parts of the computer-integrated factory that have anything to do with handling the order.

Computerised plans are drawn up. The computer orders the material from the stores, checking whether any parts need ordering from suppliers.

It briefs the production department on the job in hand, thereby enabling the works management to slot it at the most convenient moment into the production schedule.

The details are then relayed to accounts and so on.

The computer-integrated machinery turns out the required number and variety of diodes, with the box supplying components and removing the finished products.

The principle is straightforward, the model fascinating. Reality is another matter. Initial euphoria at past Hanover Fairs has been dispelled.

Professor Hans-Jürgen Warnecke, head of the Stuttgart institute, briefly says the discussion phase is over. Its place has now been taken by that of putting plans into practice.

But that seems easier said than done. Computer-integrated manufacturing presupposes networking computerised "islands" within a company.

Existing computer facilities, such as stores, accounts, construction and planning (using CAD, or computer-aided design) need networking.

Their hard- and software need to be compatible, which is usually only the case to a strictly limited extent.

Medium-sized firms in particular seem to have come round to a much more levelheaded attitude. Software salesmen have held forth the promise of whatever rationalisation customers may have required; they now face more sceptical customers and need to sound more convincing.

This portable telephone on show at Hanover runs on accumulator power, enough for an hour. It weighs 6.5 kilos and costs 10,000 marks. (Photo: AP)

Little use has yet been made of CIM even in individual factory departments as a further development of CAD and CAM, or computer-aided monitoring and control of step-by-step production.

No-one has detailed figures of the extent to which computerised departments have been networked. Neither motor manufacturers nor electrical and mechanical engineering associations can supply details.

They are the industries in which computer-integrated manufacturing has made the most headway.

Two years ago, according to an IPA survey, only 10 per cent of manufacturing companies in the Federal Republic used computers in production.

A 1986 Diebold survey indicated that only 45 per cent of chemicals and drug manufacturers and only 37 per cent of construction companies use CAD, which itself is no more than an "island" configuration.

Yet computer-integrated manufacturing seems urgently needed in view of changing markets and their complex patterns of supply and demand.

Manufacturers need to turn out a steadily wider range of products, with models varying as they do in, say, the motor industry.

Individual products are expected to have an individual and distinctive appearance and must be manufactured on what used to be somewhat monotonous assembly lines.

They are also expected to deliver the goods sooner. In this connection experts note that 90 per cent of a product's progress along the assembly line consists of time spent waiting or on the move and that only 10 per cent is time in which the product is manufactured, processed or assembled.

Manufacturers of CIM systems hope their promises of major rationalisation in this connection will carry conviction.

They say stocks can be kept to a minimum by just in time inventorising and that development can be drastically reduced in time, as can the time it takes a workpiece to pass through the production line and the percentage of waste that is produced.

But customers have come to realise that there is more to CIM than entering specifications into the keyboard and waiting for the finished product to emerge from the end of the production line.

Not even computer integration can lead to machines doing the work on their own, making manpower unnecessary.

Jörg Bretschneider

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, Cologne, 23 April 1988)

Scaled-down show loses some support

This year's Hanover Fair attracted fewer visitors than the information technology exhibition, CeBIT, five weeks before.

The two used to be held together but were first held separately in 1986. This year, 483,000 visited CeBIT compared with about 450,000 for the fair proper.

The trade fair management is taking the easy way out in arguing that information and communication technology interest a wider range of users than the specialised industrial fair with its 14 sub-sections.

In reality there are bound to have been several reasons for the turnout at the industrial fair. For one, several industries that attract a wide range of interest, including major industrial automation sectors, were not at Hanover this year.

For another, information and communication technology has developed a dynamism of its own, with computers (of which there was no shortage at CeBIT) casting their magic spell, especially on the young.

Last but not least, environmental technology, which was highlighted at the industrial fair this year, still faces a number of difficulties.

They include the cash shortage that besets many local authorities, not to mention the problems individual inventors in particular encounter with the authorities in applying for such permits as may be needed prior to launching their products.

What is more, environmental engineering has yet to come into its own as what Lower Saxon Environment Minister Werner Remmers a firm feature of "industrial culture."

Officialdom may be keen on forging ahead with environmental protection but industry sees it more in terms of a cost factor that seriously affects the Federal Republic's competitive status as an industrial location.

Worries on this score were voiced at length in Hanover, but the fair management would be well advised to attach much greater importance to environmental technology.

It plans to do so by 1990, given the growing importance of environmental engineering at home and abroad.

It will be for exhibitors to decide whether to stay in Hanover or to concentrate on other specialised fairs held elsewhere in Germany.

The emphasis placed on the environment at Hanover certainly made its mark, impressing politicians in particular.

The most important conclusion to be reached from Hanover this year is that domestic demand for capital goods has regained momentum.

Businessmen were mainly concerned with the competitive status of German industry, however. It preoccupied them, relegating cyclical considerations to second place (especially as no-one can foresee exchange rate fluctuations).

The debate may, as usual, have been exaggerated, but it might yet accelerate a much-needed change in outlook.

German industry was widely accused at Hanover of lacking dynamism and flexibility. This accusation, levelled at both sides of industry, weighs heavily.

Bernd von Stumpfeldt

(Handelsblatt, Düsseldorf, 27 April 1988)

■ BUSINESS

Japanese feel icy wind of competition

DIE WELT
UNABHÄNGIGE TAGESZEITUNG FÜR DEUTSCHLAND

The Japanese are having a tough time in the radio, televison and video recorder markets.

As soon as they introduce a new video recorder, pocket cassette or CD player, their competitors produce copies at much lower prices.

Often the competition's engineers are so efficient that they need only six months to introduce all the best features of the Japanese product into their own manufactures.

The competition here means Japan's neighbours, the South Koreans. But it also means the Taiwanese.

Apparently the South Koreans and Taiwanese are doing this with a certain amount of satisfaction. The Japanese have for years been treating them, as mere purchasers, snootily.

The breakthrough they have made into the Japanese domain is far from being just a drop in the ocean.

They have touched an important nerve in Japanese industry at a time when the problems following on from increased work costs in Japan due to the strength of the yen have multiplied.

The complaints from Tokyo and Osaka sound familiar. The short production lead for these new products the Japanese have does not allow them to get back from sales their development costs.

Then export markets have collapse because of dumping, there is no money to be made from low-grade appliances and the conversion to high-class products gets ever more difficult in view of the competition's ability to learn quickly.

These complaints were to be heard in the Federal Republic ten to 15 years ago, when Euopeans groaned under Japanese attacks.

But there is a difference. The Japanese do not allow their tough rivals access to the domestic Japanese market. Their first, typical, reaction to exporting problems was to turn once more to the domestic market with all speed.

But domestic demand can only partly cover the export gaps and only temporarily bring about a balance.

This is no replacement for a counter-strategy, particularly since the marketing offensive of their new competitors has already begun.

There is something familiar about the counter-measures the Japanese have taken. For some time Japanese leisure electronics manufacturers have turned to manufacturing simple products in low-cost countries outside Japan, that is to say in South Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Singapore.

The Japanese have even more difficulties with their product planning. Like the Europeans the Japanese would dearly like to concentrate on high technology.

But the structure of their manufacturing industries is against this. They are geared to mass production, high throughput and continuously increasing growth rates. These industries are inevitably inflexible.

In high-tech regions the air is very thin as well. There is not much room to breath there for industries that have for years shown a profit from growth and ever-increasing production volumes.

All of a sudden the Japanese find themselves in the same boat as their European competitors, whose complaints they have been unable to comprehend for so long.

The anti-dumping complaints of the European Leisure Electronics Association at the EC Commission were tolerated by their European subsidiaries (most of which are members of national leisure electronics associations) but looked upon with impatience.

The complaints concerned the import of video-recorders from South Korea and one complaint, by two Japanese manufacturers, against South Korean colour television sets.

The Europeans have only got out of the scrape created by the Japanese by enormous cutbacks in production and concentration of manufacturing capacities.

Ultra-flexible automation makes it possible to cut labour costs (77,000 jobs have been shed in the Federal Republic alone). The Europeans have been able to strengthen their competitivity by the effects of manufacturing concentration and by insisting on sophisticated products. This has given them success in markets outside Europe.

While Japan is re-orienting its production and marketing planning the Europeans can win a stake in other international markets.

But the Europeans have little cause for schadenfreude. They are themselves directly affect by the South Korean advance.

The sale of 520,000 South Korean portable TV sets last year at prices way below anything Europe can match as against 270,000 in 1986, and the establishment of an assembly factory in the Federal Republic (Goldstar), are certainly only a beginning.

Among other things the Japanese will try to seek their salvation in high-quality production, the region into which the Europeans have retired with their production programmes.

The introduction of large screen TV sets into minute Japanese homes is sophisticated preparation of a secret basis to storm the last purely European bastion.

Europe must plan so that it does not fall between the Japanese or the South Korean fronts.

Joachim Weber

(Die Welt, Bonn, 25 April 1988)

Social criticism of silicon chip begins to decline

For years, the silicon chip has been blamed for much that is evil — computerisation, cable television, unemployment, turning people into passive-natured box watchers . . .

Modern communications technology still gets little praise about its social role, but public opinion is changing.

Condemnation of the chip, the symbol of the computer, the robot, the profusion of information and digital thinking, has declined.

In trade union circles the chip is no longer spoken of as a job-killer. New technology has now made its way into almost every aspect of life.

In 1987 the world market for electrical appliances was DM1,960bn. The "Big Three," the United States, Western Europe and Japan, accounted for 75 per cent of this.

Within the "Big Three" the US accounted for DM548bn (28 per cent) of this market, Western Europe DM474bn (24 per cent) and Japan DM450bn (23 per cent).

A Siemens projection shows that the international electric appliances market will grow to DM3,230bn by 1995.

Siemens experts believe that the Japanese market will increase the fastest at seven per cent annually, followed by the USA at an annual growth rate of six per cent, then Western Europe with five per cent.

In value terms Germany is in third place with DM121bn. Experts calculated that by 1995 this will have increased to DM191bn.

The Americans and the Japanese are definitely the most heavily involved in "electrical appliances production" at present.

Germany only plays third fiddle in the production of components, data and communications technology as well as consumer electronics.

Why is this? Have our engineers been sleeping? Why do they only play a subsidiary role at the present in electronics in Germany which is so intensively industrialised?

In 1951, when Germany was rebuilding its conventional industries, the Americans were constructing the first transistors.

By the mid-1950s the Americans had already poured a billion dollars into space, primarily into military projects.

At this period coal, steel and conventional goods from traditional factories were the high point of German industrial production. Because business was good up-to-the-minute developments such as semi-conductor technology were neglected. Only later did the German electrical engineering industry begin to make up for lost time, and not without success.

Despite enormous financial assistance from the Bonn Scientific Research Ministry, Germany is still two years behind the US and Japan in micro-electronics, but the gap, in time terms, is being reduced noticeably.

Unlike the Federal Republic the Japanese saw and exploited the opportunities which the new technology opened up to them, in good time. Their strengths lay in imitation and perfecting a product.

Today the Japanese are well ahead in developing a new generation of chip and they are world champions in mass production. It does not worry the Japanese that the basic patents they use come from the US or Europe.

A battle has again flared up among the electronics giants concerning the development of four-megabit chips.

Siemens and Philips have pooled their research efforts for this "super-chip" that can store 500,000 bytes. The research and development costs for these chips runs into the billions.

The Bonn Scientific Research Ministry has provided DM240m for this project, about ten per cent of total R & D costs.

Production should begin next year. Although both companies are working very intensively on this project the Japanese will again be six months faster on the market, according to Siemens.

The first to come out with the new chip will achieve considerable economic power and sales will be enormous because of the heavy demand for a new chip. A Siemens spokesman said that there would be a black market price for it.

Only when the company has been able to drive up production will the price fall to between six and 30 marks probably.

Up to the mid-1970s electronics and conventional electrical engineering developed at the same pace. Since then they have drifted considerably away from one another.

According to a Siemens projection conventional electrical engineering will only show an annual growth rate of 2.5 per cent up to 1995. Up to that date electronics will show a growth rate of nine per cent per annum.

In pure value terms the market (the US, Japan and the Federal Republic) will have reached the DM2,500bn level.

The Federal Republic comes after the US and Japan in electrical engineering technology but is a world leader in exports in this sector.

The Americans' electrical engineering production in 1986 was valued at DM572bn, but only DM85bn or 14.9 per cent was exported.

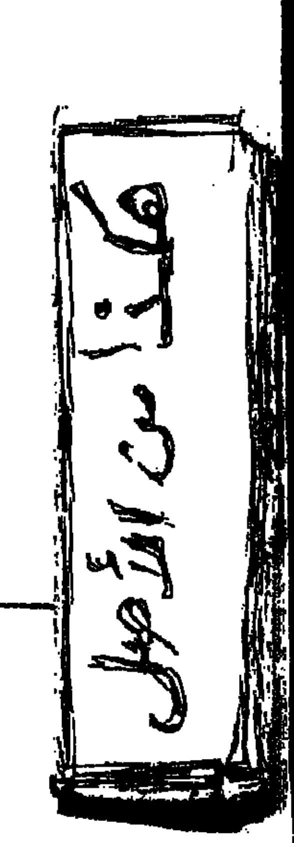
Japanese electrical engineering production in that year was DM547bn of which DM125bn was exported.

The Federal Republic's electrical engineering production in 1986 was DM137bn. Exports accounted for DM70bn of this total.

The application of micro-electronics gets more extensive all the time. Micro-electronics will not make people happier, but they will make life easier and will give security to the quality of life in a world of eight billion people. The chip is only a tool, but a useful one.

Edmund Els

(General-Anzeiger, Bonn, 22 April 1988)



■ THE MOTOR INDUSTRY

10 years after its roadside breakdown, Chrysler drives back into Germany



Chrysler, the third-largest US motor manufacturer, has set its sights on the German market again.

Ten years ago it pulled out of Europe at a time when it was running huge losses in America and its European business was going from bad to worse.

It wanted to concentrate on pulling its US business through the crisis. After brief and hectic negotiations it sold its European division to Peugeot-Citroen of France.

This pull-out was such a traumatic experience that Chrysler was only gradually able to recover.

The reaction of German carmakers to the renewed competition is unflappable, although they admit under closer questioning that it has set them thinking.

However, although Chrysler will be able to sell cars cheaply because of the dollar rate, its initial aim is to sell just 5,000 cars a year, which would be a mere 0.16 per cent of the market.

In addition Chrysler intends to go for specialist buyers. And another comfort for German makers: Chrysler quality will be just good to average.

So Chrysler went back to the US. There, it managed to keep Japanese carmakers out of Detroit. Not only that, its began to pull through. It recovered and eventually faced a vastly different problem, investing billions in profits.

In recent years, Chrysler, just like General Motors and Ford, has developed into more than a motor manufacturer.

The Chrysler Financial Corp. is the fourth-largest non-banking financier in the United States.

The Chrysler Technologies Corp. includes one of the leading manufacturers of state-of-the-art small-to me dium-sized jet aircraft, Gulfstream Aerospace Corp., with a big backlog of orders in hand.

In August 1987 Chrysler took over American Motors (AMC) from Renault of France.

The French state enterprise was happy to see the back of its US lossmaker; Chrysler executives rolled up their sleeves.

The AMC works on the Canadian border are anything but up-to-the-minute, with many workshops and much equipment dating back to the early days of the US auto industry.

Chrysler's chief executive officer, the legendary Lee A. Iacocca, made full use of the no less legendary Jeep, manufactured by an AMC subsidiary, in his advertising campaign.

Chrysler, he told US consumers, had brought back to the United States the vehicle "our boys" had driven in so many war theatres.

That brings us to Chrysler's newly-acquired access to the promising Chinese market. The Beijing Jeep Corp. is already manufacturing jeeps in China.

For up-market Californian customers Chrysler can supply Maseratis and Lamborghinis from Italy, both well-known names of high repute in the automobile world.

Chrysler is linked with Maserati and has taken over full ownership of Lamborghini.

Despite a number of sales setbacks and problems still caused by AMC, Chrysler is now in a sounder state than ever.

Last year the corporation sold over 2.26 million cars, netting profits of nearly $1.3bn on turnover of $26.3bn.

Chrysler may, of course, be one of America's Big Three, but it is still almost insignificant in international markets.

Only 70,000 vehicles were sold outside the United States and Canada last year.

That is due in part to the strategy of concentrating on the domestic market, but that is now to change. Will Chrysler suddenly emerge as a force to be reckoned with among car exporters?

It hardly seems likely to do so. US auto executives tend to overstate their case, but Chrysler for once has set itself decidedly modest sales targets.

An initial 5,000 Chryslers a year are to be sold in Germany. Last year Lada, the Soviet manufacturer, sold over twice as many cars in the Federal Republic, as did Seat of Spain.

Alfa Romeo, Porsche and Austin Rover all sell well over the figure envisaged by Chrysler, who plan to ship 56,000 cars to Europe this year.

That would make Chrysler the largest US auto exporter at one fell swoop, but sales of 5,000 in the Federal Republic would be a mere 0.16 per cent of new registrations in Germany.

So the marketing managers of German carmakers need hardly lose sleep at night.

German car salesmen need have no fear of Chrysler, which says it plans to cater for demand in special sectors of the market.

That is more than can be said of Japanese manufacturers, who have grown even more ambitious. They plan to move up-market and sell models in what Chrysler describes as special sectors.

The Japanese plan to sell generously equipped, technically advanced, reliable yet relatively inexpensive up-market models.

As for Chrysler, however, it is hard to see why German car-buyers should buy American at present.

The dollar exchange rate may be favourable. The prices at which Chryslers are to be sold in Germany have definitely benefited.

What is more, Chrysler is offering longer, better guarantees than any other manufacturer. But the cars are, at best, good average.

So the reasons for Chrysler's decision to expand internationally may well be domestic. Robert A. Lutz, Chrysler's deputy chief executive officer, says it needs the challenge.

Wolfgang Peters

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 23 April 1988)

No matter what the makers say, they do have big problems

NÜRNBERGER Nachrichten

German car manufacturers are confronted with urgent problems: domestic competition is getting tougher and sales in America are declining because of prices rises caused by the exchange rate with the dollar.

Earlier this year, German manufacturers were all sounding confident. They praised their latest models and referred to increasing sales in Europe.

But all they were doing was distracting attention from these problems.

The tougher domestic competition and difficulties in America are throwing up questions for level-headed cost accountants. The questions to be answered are:

- How can cars be manufactured more cheaply?
- How can quality be improved?
- How can wages, an enormous cost factor, be cut?

Volkswagen were first to announce plans for 2,200 redundancies in Kassel. Then came Audi, saying 2,000 jobs must go.

They have now been joined by Porsche, hard hit by mistakes in model policy and, in particular, by the dollar exchange rate (half of all Porsches made are sent to the United States).

But other leading German carmakers are also in heavy weather in North America. Mercedes, BMW, VW and Audi have all seen exports decline by double figures.

So the German motor industry's fat years are over, as other industries will soon find out to their cost when car workers face the threat of redundancy.

Once they join coal, steel and construction workers and farmers in the dole queues we will all notice it.

Short time and unemployment hit consumption, and the performance of the German economy is largely dependent on domestic consumption.

In view of this, the Bonn government's recommendations sound helpless. (Bonn counsels industrial investment and trade union moderation.)

Solutions to the problems must be sought in the executive suites. Will we now see the factory of the future?

Manufacturing industry, or at least large firms, can no longer afford to ignore computer-integrated manufacturing, especially now costs have been cut by the pace of microchip development.

This prospect may be hailed by some as the solution; others, of course, will see it as a horrific vision of the shape of things to come.

Sabine Meyer

(Nürnberger Nachrichten, 20 April 1988)

Trend to fewer commercial manufacturers

Mannheimer MORGEN

The takeover of Leyland, the well-known British bus manufacturer, by Volvo of Sweden testifies to intensified competition and merger trends in commercial vehicle manufacture, which has always been a varied and fragmented section of the motor industry.

An agency poll of manufacturers indicates that competition and concentration have now come to a head, concentration having hitherto been mainly limited to truck production.

A wide range of independent firms still specialise in making buses. Pundits say management must be streamlined and cooperation within the European Community will be indispensable if this section of the industry is to survive.

In Western Europe bus production totals 10,000 a year, plus a further 15,000 or so in Eastern Europe.

They weigh in at 12 tonnes and above and cost from DM200,000 to DM1m (the price of a hybrid diesel and electric-powered articulated "concertina" bus).

A conventional city bus costs about DM250,000.

Daimler-Benz of Stuttgart have long been the leading bus manufacturers in the Western world, with an annual output of 18,000 buses or chassis.

Last year 4,565 units were made at the company's Mannheim works. That was 10 per cent less than the previous year.

The remainder are manufactured all over the world by overseas subsidiaries and associated companies.

Mercedes buses are not yet marketed in the United States, but North America is a fairly small market with annual replacement demand for 2,500-3,000 city buses and long-distance coaches.

In contrast, up to 30,000 new school buses a year are sold. This US demand is mainly met by Navistar and General Motors, using truck chassis.

In Western Europe the No. 2 is now Volvo-Leyland, following a merger that eases the Swedish company's access to the Common Market.

Kässbohrer of Ulm is another leading German manufacturer of long-distance coaches with an estimated annual output of over 2,000 units.

The commercial vehicles division of Renault, incoporating Berliet and Saviem, is also important, as is Fiat-Iveco of Italy, which manufactures 4,000 units a year.

MAN of Germany concentrates on city buses, of which it sells roughly 800 a year — the finished product —, plus between 1,500 and 2,000 chassis, most of which are shipped abroad.

Small fry who manufacture between 10 and 200 units a year are almost too numerous to list in Europe.

In the East Bloc Ikarus of Hungary enjoy a monopoly, supplying even the Soviet Union. Ikarus has long been keen to step up exports to the West.

dpa/VWD

(Mannheimer Morgen, 18 April 1988)

■ THE ARTS

Acid attack on masterpieces seen by horrified children

A class of school-children on a visit to Munich's Alte Pinakothek watched in horror as a man hurled acid at three paintings by Albrecht Dürer (1471-1528).

The attendants were unable to react quickly enough to stop him. The damage is estimated at 100 million marks. But even more serious than the cost is the extent of the damage.

The three pictures are *The Lamentation over the Body of Christ*, painted on conifer wood, 151 x 121 cm; *Mary as a grief-stricken Mother*, again painted on wood, 109 x 43.3 cm; and the famous *Paumgartner Altarpiece*, dating from 1503, a triptych on linden wood with Christ's birth in the central panel flanked by St George and St Eustace on the side panels.

This work alone is valued at DM70 million. First investigations show that 70 per cent of *Mary* has been damaged, 50 per cent of the *Lamentation* and and 30 per cent of the Alturpiece. These are irreplaceable losses.

The accused, Hans-Joachim Bohlmann, 51, unemployed, made acid attacks on pictures in museums in Hamburg, Lübeck, Lüneburg, Essen, Bochum and Kassel in 1977.

The State Museum in Hanover believes this man was responsible for attacks with acid on Cranach's portrait of Martin Luther and his wife, Katharina Bora, and three portraits of Bartholomäus Bruyn.

The hall porter of a Kassel hotel gave the police a lead on the suspect who had quickly destroyed two of Kassel's Rembrandts.

In 1979 Bohlmann was sentenced to five years imprisonment. He said at the time that he would never do such a thing again. He told the court that he would never again "lose control of himself."

Bohlmann, an unobtrusive person, now says he was taking revenge because for years a part of his pension has been withheld to pay for the damage he previously did to pictures.

There has been considerable psychopathological speculation on why he did what he did.

Art vandals always have some kind of hazy argument to hand, either something to do with their world view, religion or morality or they are for a moment at odds with the world.

The vandal who throws acid at works of art is unpredictable.

There have been other cases. In 1972 an Australian sculptor attacked Michelangelo's *Pieta* in St Peter's, Rome. He rained 15 hammer blows on the glorious work of Mary with the body of Christ, just taken down from the cross, lying in her lap.

The group was returned to St Peter's after it had been restored — the left arm had been knocked off and the eye and nose badly damaged.

It now stands behind bullet-proof glass, four metres high and 19 mm thick.

In 1985 a young man set lit to Rubens' portrait of Philipp IV of Spain in the Zürich Art Gallery. It was rumoured that he had done it because of environmental pollution and he wanted to draw attention to his protest by a spectacular act.

The argument is absurd. All that is left of the Rubens' picture is the frame. How should museums protect themselves against the unpredicatable? Can we in future only look at sculpture on display under great domes of glass and gaze at valuable pictures, if at all, when they are placed behind bullet-proof glass? Direct contact with the work, with the canvas, the colours, the essentials of the work — all qualities involved in appreciating art — will be lost. But rather an art work wrapped up than destroyed. After the 1977 attack the director of the Hanover State Museum, Hans-Werner Grohn, drew the consequences. He firstly had all the portraits and pictures that included naked figures glazed. He then had every picture whose size made this possible glazed with non-reflective glass.



Dürer's Madonna painting after the attack.

(Photo: AP)

Several Dürer pictures in the Old Pinakothek had been glazed before Hans-Joachim Bohlmann used the Museum to take revenge for what had been done against him. But there is no perfect way of protecting art works from actions such as he took.

An attendant would not throw himself bodily between the bottle of acid and a picture, apart from the fact that there is not an attendant in every room in a museum.

A body search before visiting a museum would create an impossible atmosphere.

There has always been art vandalism. We have to live with it. Shock and moral anger unfortunately do not help much.

But we can always think about the blessings of glazing when we are irritated by glass reflections and pictures almost unrecognisable.

Annette Lettau

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 22 April 1988)

Something for all tastes — and pockets — at antiques fair

Hanover's 20th Art and Antiques Fair opened in the Galerie and Orangerie at Herrenhausen, all that remains of the former royal castle.

The venue in Herrenhausen with its splendid gardens is an advantage for the fair over its two competitors, the fairs staged in Cologne and Munich.

The Electress Sophia (1630-1714), mother of George I of England, deeply loved Herrenhausen, particularly the rambling gardens around the residence. She made it her life's work to care for and develop them.

Her gardens are now one of the few examples left of the barock garden. The geometric shapes remain unaltered.

The fair in Hanover has another advantage over its competitors, the special exhibition that has been staged for many years in the fair's foyer, always highlighting a special theme.

This year this special exhibition was devoted to "Court and Bourgeois Tableware," showing artistic developments from the renaissance.

The highpoint of the exhibition was the famous silverware from Hildesheim, not displayed in glass cases but laid out on a table as if for a meal.

The Bavarian National Museum and the Roemer Museum in Hildesheim loaned the curved centrepiece in the form of decorated rococo foliage with a group of musicians, a terrine and a sauce boat decorated with cherubs, silver plates decorated with a coat-of-arms and the gilded cutlery, which Hildesheim's Prince-Bishop Friedrich Wilhelm of Westphalia commissioned from Augsburg in 1763.

In contrast to this court dining table there is a classic, bourgeois table decorated for a festive occasion, originating from the Lübeck Museum for Art and Culture. This can be seen in room that has been set up in replica of the period.

The knives, forks and spoons, utensiles that give some idea of the cultural history of the time, come from a private collection.

The changes to porcelain design can also be seen here.

Art dealers have seveal items for sale in the special exhibition. These include a "Blackamoor" standing about 1.60 metres high, made in Venice in the 19th century.

The Negro boy made of wood, in colourful dress and a feather in his turban, has a plate in his hand where callers could place their visiting cards. Or the warming dishes with covers that belonged to August II (1670-1733), that are on sale for a million marks, the most expensive items in the fair.



Wild pig's head as tureen. Painted by Johannes Zeschinger, 1760.

(Photo: Kunst & Antiquitätenmesse Hannover)

August, King of Poland and Elector of Saxony, commissioned the silver dishes with covers in their sophisticated design from Augsburg in 1717 and 1729.

The exhibitors have exhibits on their stands in line with the theme of this year's special display.

There are silver chocolate and teapots from various sources on offer, partly gilded tankards and paintings such as a work by the Munich naturalist artist Peter Baumgartner, showing a pastor who, in bright sunshine, has fallen asleep over the table after his meal.

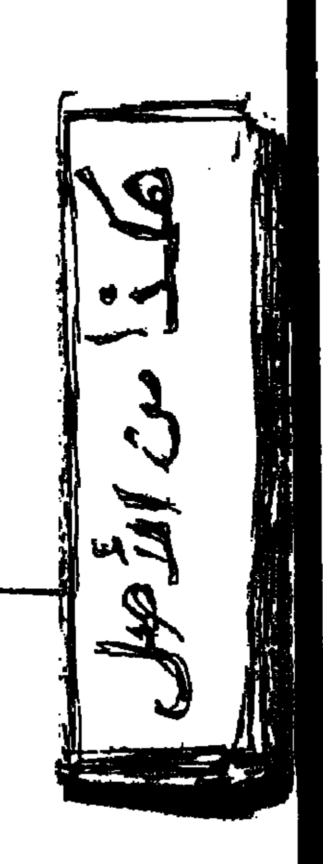
Apart from the classics the moderns are also available in Hanover. Otto Modersohn, Paula Modersohn-Becker, Max Liebermann, Ernst Wilhelm Nay and Lovis Corinth are represented.

There are also for sale an early work by Kandinsky, works from his companion Gabriele Münter, water-colours by Lyonel Feininger and a large number of lithographs by Miró as well as orginals by contemporary artists such as Johannes Grützke and Arik Brauer.

The most important picture for sale at this year's fair is Oskar Kokoschka's view of Hamburg's Inner Alster, dating from 1926, on offer for DM750,000.

Old masters are represented by, among others, Jacob van Ruisdael's *Rocky Landscape with Waterfall* on sale for DM300,000. Collectors have to dig ...

Continued on page 13



■ THE CINEMA

Soviet and Canadian entries share main prize for short films

The main prize at the 34th German Short-film Festival in Oberhausen went to two entries. Neither was an obvious choice from among the 94 films, but they did represent current trends as presented in Oberhausen.

The two were Soviet film-maker Jubakova's *The Return* and Canadian Brenda Longfellow's *Our Marilyn*.

The Soviet film dealt with young soldiers returning home from Afghanistan. It is made in the classic reporting style of interviews with documentary-type shots.

Just like the American soldiers returning from the Vietnam War in the 1970s, the young veterans found there was no place for them at home.

One of them speaks of his war experiences saying that he had killed people "just as you hunt hares." They felt themselves to be a "morally crippled generation," but at the same time their far-reaching disillusionment sharpened the demands they made on their society.

Our Marilyn captivates by its stylish photography. Longfellow, who wrote the script as well as directing it, re-creates the historic, marathon feat of Marilyn Bell who, in 1954, swam across Lake Ontario and became a national heroine.

Longfellow's experimental style is a dense collage of various film and sound materials, part of which have been artificially re-treated and alienated.

By the use of short inserts, the Canadian Marilyn competes in her way with her American competitor, Marilyn Monroe, who at the same time seemed to have won the hearts of her audiences effortlessly.

In her film reconstruction of the two women idols of the 1950s Brenda Longfellow looks for a third, contemporary Marilyn who can endure beyond willpower and the beauty cult.

Our Marilyn is one of a large number of experimental films shown in Oberhausen. The filming is in black-and-white and coloured after the event. Movement is chopped up and distorted.

Photographs are combined with film sequences, included with current film material, sometimes coarse-grained, sometimes over- or under-exposed film is selected and even scratched film.

European and North American film students mainly establish the range of their film language in such technically-expensive short-films.

The contrasts to these experiments in form were provided at Oberhausen primarily by contributions from the Third World, films that denounce the social problems in their countries.

Three contributions from Latin America reported on the poverty of children in the streets and parks of the big cities.

One of these was *Ninos deudores*, a documentary video made in 1985 by Cuban journalist Estela Bravo. During the festival an interesting workshop was devoted to her achievements.

Her film shows children in Peru, Bolivia and Columbia. One of them, a young boy, sleeps curled up on a kerb.

When he is eventually awakened, it emerges in conversation with passers-by that children like him work until midnight on the streets in city centres and then have no chance of getting home to their parents in the city slums on the outskirts, if they have a home to return to that is. Most of them come from broken homes. Although the urgent message they have to make takes precedent over cinematic experiments in aesthetics in short-films from the Third World, they captivate through the versatility of their construction.

Brazilian film-maker Francisco C. Filho and Tata Amaral declared war on commericial radio in a "film pamphlet" entitled *Queremos as Ondas do Ar*, (We want space on the air frequencies). This provocative, fast-moving short-film opposes the monopoly situation of a few commercial radio stations in Brazil.

Shots of demonstrations in support of overdue land reform are interposed between shots of a politically-engaged punk band from Sao Paulo.

They are part of a pirate radio programme. Pirate radios are springing up everywhere. This "film pamphlet" shows how the state screens "wanted" photographs of radio pirates as if they were criminals.

The Somali short-film *Geedka Nolosha* (The tree of life) takes a didactic look at the rural population of Central Africa.

Film-maker Abdulkadir Ahmed Said warns of the consequences of extensive deforestation. He does this by means of the parable of a farmer who turns a fertile tropical forest into a desert because he seeks "The tree of life."

Film-makers from all over the world are concerned with disturbances to the environment — and not with just serious exhortations.

Swiss film-maker Pipilotti Rist piles up domestic rubbish on a city map of Basle in her short-film *Das Gute*, and then whitewashes it with paint manufactured by the Sandoz chemicals concern.

Film-maker Cesar Hernando from the Philippines produces similar shots of rubbish in his three-minute-long film *Botika Bituka*. This tongue twister means something along the lines of "Pharmaceuticals, giblets." The film is whimsical and critical at one and the same time.

Jan Sverak from Czechoslovakia takes the north Bohemian countryside for the location of his short-film *Ropaci* (The oil-eaters).

He shows the enormous slag heaps of brown coal open-cast mining, the towers of nuclear power plants and waste water pipes as a ghostly backdrop to satirical ecological science-fiction.

Scientists discover a new creature in the emissions from chimneys and in waste pipes, the oil-eater, which thrives in these environmental conditions.

The information briefing, which has previously taken place before the international film festival opened, was integrated into the short-film festival this year. This livened up the discussions on the films. Many of the films were bound up in themselves in a very twee sense. They were filled with close-ups of parts of the body and face.

Hannoversche Allgemeine

Monika Funke-Stern in her *Parfait d'amour* showed an astonishing view of a couple indulging in love-play.

In order to get as close as possible to the sensations of a kiss the camera, fitted with a telescopic snorkel, goes right into the woman's mouth and films through her opened lips, noting, almost with dry clinical observation, how the man's mouth approaches her.

Mariusz Grzegorzek, a student from the Polish Lodz Film College, showed a fascinating link between externals and the inner world in his short-film *Krakatau*.

Leonore Kampe

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 26 April 1988)

A coming together of minds at a border-town festival

It is astonishing how relaxed talks between film-makers from both Germanies now can be. The times when both sides were just waiting for ideological provocation are a thing of the past.

The organisers of the Selb Film Festival have done much to bring a fresh attitude to dialogue between film people in the two parts of Germany.

Selb is a small town close to the East German border in northern Franconia.

This year's festival was the 11th and showed once more that it is always worth a visit. About 70 films were shown in the four-day event, feature films, short-films and documentaries.

During the festival it was possible for East German film-makers to meet West German members of the audience.

Many of the 4,500 visitors took the opportunity to meet East German director Herrmann Zschocher, who tirelessly answered questions put by members of the public with wit and a touch of entertainment.

Zschoche, all-rounder star of the East German film industry, cannot in any way be pigeon-holed.

This year's "workshop" was a retrospective of his work. His films have had a considerable influence on the public.

Many of them are ironical and witty observations of daily life, that captivate through their tempo and the endearing way they describe a location.

He is an advocate of traditional film-making, that tells a story. As such he has attracted an audience of all ages.

For children, there is his fairy-tale *Philipp, der Kleine*, for adolescents the comic, teenager love-story *Sieben Sommersprossen* and *Insel der Schwäne*, written by Ulrich Plenzdorf. In East Germany this film is regarded as in part an attack on modern home building.

Then for adults there is his road movie *Weite Straßen — Stille Liebe*.

His film about river shipping *Feuer unter Deck* is not so good with its rubbishy ending.

Hälfte des Lebes, dealing with the hopeless love of the poet Hölderlin (1770-1843) for Suzette Gontard, the wife of a Frankfurt banker, is static and dispassionate.

His *Die Alleinseglerin* made last year is more effective. It is the story of a divorced young woman who defiantly puts up a fight against professional pressures and the male world around her.

As she goes through the maturing process the dialogue is cheeky. Amazingly many members of the audience regarded the film as anti-male.

Zschoche regards his best film to be *Bürgschaft für ein Jahr*, a tormenting, realistic, almost documentary study of a woman who lives alone and who is in love with life. Because of her relaxed way of living she loses custody of her three children.

Zschoche tells this moving story without any spectacular dramatics. In this way he can concentrate his film on the thrilling performance of Katrin Sass, who is completely unknown here.

The photography is marvellous as it reveals realities that threaten their existence.

There were unusual films from Georgia in the Soviet Union and the Federal Republic at Selb.

From Georgia there came an extraordinary film by Nana Dschordshadse entitled *Robinsonade oder mein englischer Großvater*, treating documentary material and dramtic recreations in a jocular collage about the victory of the Bolshevik Revolution.

An Englishman, an employee of the London-Delhi telegraph link, stubbornly defends as British territory, as per contract, the three-metres area around telegraph poles.

Michael A. Busch and Ernst Kuitzka made *Die Macht des Wahnsinns*, last year. It is a comical film shot with an antiquated cable camera. It is also a silent movie in effect but with a piano accompaniment.

It deals with current environmental problems using with confidence a film style dating from the early days of the cinema.

A mad scientist puts together a bomb using re-cycled garbage.

Both groups of documentaries from Estonia were very good. Until now they have only been shown at the Berlin Film Festival.

It was interesting to compare the euphoric propaganda of the Stalin era about the blessings of agricultural collectivisation in *Der Kolchos — Neues Leben* by V. Parvel with the uncompromising criticism of the sloppiness and disorganisation of collective farms or "Kolkhos" in *Die Ermüdung des Ackermanns* by Juri Müür and Enn Säde.

This documentary was made in 1882, long before "glasnost" was a catchword.

The two Estonian documentaries by Mark Soosaar were outstanding. *Der Einbaum* uses very impressive pictorial language and *Die Männer von der Insel Kihnu* is a fascinating portrait of the landscape and living conditions of the Estonian people.

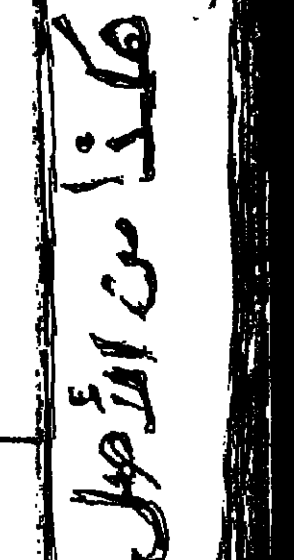
The *Kihnu* film shows the devastating destruction of island culture. Where once the community functioned island life is now dominated by alcohol with its brutal consequences.

Every visitor who attended this bridge between East and West would have come away with some new film experience.

As an alternative to the major film festivals this small "borderland" event should not be disregarded.

Michael Meier

(Nürnberger Nachrichten, 12 April 1988)



■ INNOVATION

Lots of ideas, but the people that think them up are disgruntled

Inventors today tend to concentrate on helping the environment in some way. A centre set up in Hanover to give financial assistance to self-employed inventors says that only about five per cent of ideas submitted for backing are useful in practise. The rest are mostly of the-lavatory-brush-that-you-can-flush-down-the-toilet type loved by newspapers. In this article for *Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt*, Horst Peter Wickel looks at the direction the invention industry is taking.



Eighty million marks is said to be what tax breaks for inventors cost the Federal government in 1985.

Self-employed inventors pay income tax at a reduced rate. That costs the Exchequer an estimated DM55m a year.

Salaried (or wage-earning) staff who are paid a bonus by their employers for bright ideas benefit from tax incentives that cost a further DM25m.

On the lookout for ways of raising cash to fund their tax reform package, officials at Gerhard Stoltenberg's Finance Ministry suggested scrapping these subsidies.

"Absolutely incomprehensible," says Bert Wessel, chairman of the Society for the Promotion of Invention in the Federal Republic of Germany (GFEW).

"What they call scrapping subsidies is in reality a tax on innovation, given that innovations can only result from inventions."

Chancellor Kohl may have called German inventors "an important creative and dynamic element in the middle class of the economy," but in comparison with their fellow-inventors elsewhere in Europe and overseas, whose ideas can be admired at the Geneva inventors' fair, German inventors feel neglected and at a disadvantage.

Yet the Federal Republic pays more and more for licences bought from abroad than it earns from licence fees earned abroad. The gap is an annual deficit of DM2bn.

One patent in four at the German Patent Office in Munich is applied for by a self-employed inventor. Nearly 75 per cent are applied for by companies, mainly small and medium-sized firms.

Staunchly middle-class Baden-Württemberg is head and shoulders above the rest of the country in patents applied for per head of population.

Herr Wessel sees this as a clear sign of the pro-innovation policies pursued by CDU Premier Lothar Späth in Baden-Württemberg and, in his words, a "corrective to the failed patents policies pursued in other *Länder.*"

Twenty years ago, for instance, North Rhine-Westphalia led the country in terms of patents applied for; racked by serious structural problems, the Rhine and Ruhr today are also-rans.

There is no lack of ideas and proposals for easing the fiscal and administrative burdens that weigh so heavily on German inventors.

Inventing costs money, lots of money; a bright idea alone is not enough.

"In our experience an invention goes through about six stages," says Dr Schrader of the North German Inventors' Centre, Hanover. They are, by keyword: idea; selection; patent; proof of feasibility; finding buyers; marketing.

The Hanover centre, jointly financed by Lower Saxony and Schleswig-Holstein, has set itself the task of lending self-employed inventors in particular a helping hand.

It assesses about 600 inventions a year and lends further assistance with the ones it feels are promising by financing patent applications and raising cash to build prototypes.

Many not useful

But only about five per cent of inventions submitted are of any real use. The remainder are often amusing but rather silly, and they are the ones beloved of the media, convinced as many journalists are that inventors are widely felt to be harebrained cranks.

Inventors' fairs such as are regularly held in Nuremberg and Geneva generally trigger predictable newspaper stories about "lavatory brushes that flush down the toilet" (Süddeutsche Zeitung) or "an umbrella for your push-bike, a bust expander and a musical shoe" (Die Welt).

In reality many inventors are well aware of the signs of the times and have long concentrated on environmental protection and the new technology.

One such idea the Hanover centre has backed is an "ecological noise abatement wall." Patents have been granted in Germany and the United States and applied for in Denmark and Germany. It is a wall consisting of reinforced concrete sections clad in vegetation ranging from moss to herbs and grass and comprising roughly 100 species. It is "self-sustaining and resistant to salt spread on winter roads" and cover less space than "conventional earth embankments."

Landscape architect Bernd Krupka from Seelze, near Hanover, is still on the lookout for licence applicants and other customers.

Silence is green. This noise-abatement wall comprises prefabricated concrete containers which are filled with earth and sown with plants. It is claimed to take up less space than conventional earth embankments alongside autobahns. (Photo: AP)

He has a prototype section of wall 200 metres long ready for viewing in Seelze.

The idea has cost him roughly half a million marks, not to mention five years of development work. The Hanover centre raised half this sum in grants. "I might have managed it without them," he says, "but it would have taken much longer."

The list of inventions the Hanover centre has on its books includes bright ideas from all sectors of technology that have yet to make their breakthrough.

They range from a straw-burning plant and a repositioning device for bone fractures to a trouser iron for the textile industry and "extensive rooftop greenery."

Inventors are not all loners. Early this year their association proposed reopening steel furnaces in North Rhine-Westphalia for use as garbage incinerators.

This would help to handle an imminent environmental emergency and also create new jobs.

"Existing facilities," says Herr Wessel, "include underused inland waterways and underemployed boatmen, transhipment and transport facilities and disused iron and steel furnaces that can be heated to temperatures of up to 1,700° C." Combined with a steam turbine power station to incinerate the gas and plant to process the ash and slack, garbage and job problems could be solved at one fell swoop, Herr Wessel says.

In the latest issue of *Erfinder-Journal*, or "Inventors' Journal," subtitled "Independent Magazine for Creativity and Innovation," he says it is for the *Land* government to go ahead with the measures required to launch the project.

The magazine is published jointly by the GFEW and its Austrian and Swiss counterparts.

Glance through it and you may find it hard to suppress the odd snigger, but our forefathers may well have sniggered 80 years ago when a young lady drilled holes in the bottom of a can, cut out a circular section from a sheet of blotting paper, laid it in the can and added ground coffee and boiling water.

The young lady's name was Melitta Bentz. Her bright idea was the prototype of the paper coffee filter pioneered by the company that still bears her name.

Horst Peter Wickel

(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, Hamburg, 24 April 1988)

■ MEDICINE

One employee in 10 is a chronic daytime drinker

For the estimated one in 10 Germans who drink at work, there is always an excuse for a drink.

The blonde in accounts is throwing a birthday party. The boss is in a bad mood. It's been another punishing day's work. The complete imbiber is never at a loss for an explanation.

Neither are the one in 20 working Germans who are classified as alcoholics needing treatment.

Between them they cost the economy an amount estimated to run into tens of billions of marks a year.

There were no trades or professions in which alcoholism was particularly widespread, Herbert Ziegler of the German Addiction Centre told a a Munich working session of a sub-section of the Protestant Church welfare association.

"There are drinkers in every trade; on construction sites and at government offices — and at all levels, from head of department to junior typist."

The only clear distinction was that staff who cannot complain of a particularly heavy workload were very seldom "driven to drink," whereas nearly one member of staff in four with a very heavy workload had a constant supply of alcohol at the ready.

Staff who work under the influence of drink not only do poorer work and are less able to cope with a heavy workload; they are also a danger to themselves and their surroundings.

This point is made in a Port of Hamburg survey showing that 82 per cent of industrial accidents, including travel to and from work, involved workers with a blood alcohol count of over 150 milligrams.

A similar survey of 132 accidents in the public sector shows 55 per cent to have involved blood alcohol levels between 150 and 300 milligrams and a further 11 per cent over 300 milligrams.

It takes a 75kg (165lb) man at least four litres, or roughly a gallon, of beer to reach this level. "Blood samples," Herr Ziegler said, "were taken only between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m."

Alcoholics were, statistically speaking, three and a half times more frequently involved in industrial accidents than others. They were off work sick two and a half times longer. As for absenteeism in general, they were 16 times above average.

An alcoholic is off work for between 65 and 110 working days a year. What that can cost an employer is easily exemplified:

A company with a payroll of 1,000 and on average five per cent alcoholics stands to lose DM375,000 a year in paid sick leave and work simply not done, assuming average annual pre-tax earnings of DM30,000.

Treatment is worthwhile. It often works, and staff with alcohol problems are frequently men and women who used to be good, or even important, members of the staff.

A US survey claims that every dollar invested in prevention pays nine dollars in dividends, with absenteeism being reduced by nearly two thirds from 118 to 48 days a year.

The Munich gathering was aimed mainly at proprietors, personnel managers, works doctors and works councillors. It sought to show them how to help staff who were in trouble. "Everyone knows who the alcoholics are at work," Herr Ziegler said, "but their superiors are, more often than not, reluctant to take them to task."

Many large firms have launched company schemes to help alcohol and other addicts, but medium-sized and small firms are still most reluctant to follow suit.

A society to promote addiction aid programmes at work has been set up, with leading companies such as Siemens, BASF, Deutsche BP and Schering among its members.

Professor Eleonore von Rotenhan, head of social work at Siemens and the society's hon. pres., says work is a particularly important part of the treatment because staff affected are easily approached there.

Alcohol consumption is on the decline, slightly but in keeping with the general health trend. Why, then, is alcohol at work paid more attention than used to be the case? Herr Ziegler attributes this to another general trend: "We have all grown more aware of problems of this kind."

Peter Schmalz

(Die Welt, Bonn, 19 April 1988)

Work stress a big cause of pill addiction

Her pills were always on her bedside table, said a woman in her mid-30s, describing her addiction to uppers and downers.

First, sleeping pills became part of her life. Then she started taking other pills because she felt tired:

"Eventually I just hadn't a clue where I stood. I woke up and couldn't remember whether it was morning, noon or night."

She is one of 800,000 German pill addicts (and 7.5 million Germans under regular medication).

A survey by the Federal Health Education Centre shows pressure of work to be one reason why people start taking pills.

A further finding of the survey was that twice as many women as men are pill-poppers.

Dr Rolf Bialas, head of the Hamburg medical council, said in a platform debate that too many drugs are prescribed in Germany and that doctors are mainly to blame.

Are they to blame for the large number of addicts? Some are certainly open to allegations of prescribing drugs they know can quickly become addictive.

There is a wide range of activities to prevent alcoholism and to help alcoholics to reintegrate in society.

But pill addiction is still very much a taboo — or dismissed as unimportant and a problem for the individual.

Two women, Sybille Ellinger, a psychologist, and Angelika Nette, a social economist, have launched an information unit in Hamburg to help ensure that the problem is no longer ignored or brushed aside.

The first of its kind in Germany, it sets out to provide women with information on medicine in everyday life.

Experts can consult the unit for details of preventive measures. Pill consumers can enquire whether they are addicts or potential addicts.

The unit was set up in the wake of a research project at Hamburg University department of medical sociology in which the two women looked into the connection between pill-taking and work.

They discovered that the people who regularly took painkillers, sleeping pills and tranquillisers were mainly those who had to work hard but were not allowed to make many decisions of their own at work.

Women working on piece rate at assembly lines were the textbook example. Many social workers (in the widest sense of the term) also frequently pop pills — to "keep up the pace" or "last the distance."

"The emotional demands made on people engaged in welfare work are very high," says Frau Ellinger. "A constant balance must be struck between detachment from and proximity to, say, the patient. That can be very hard work."

It also helps to explain why twice as many women as men are pill-poppers. Women predominate in social work and routine jobs.

A 1960s survey revealed that more pills were popped (and other medicines taken) on the shopfloor than in the office or the despatch department.

The survey was undertaken in the Swiss watch industry, because of widespread kidney damage caused by taking painkillers.

Regular intake of drugs that affect the mind (uppers and downers) can also have serious consequences. They suppress not only physical pain but also mental upsets, such as fear and depression.

As the symptom, not the cause, is treated, pill-poppers can suffer breakdowns and end up in psychiatric wards.

So pill-poppers live in a vicious circle of addiction, just like alcoholics. They have to take steadily higher doses for, say, painkillers to work.

If they stop taking them they may suffer from withdrawal symptoms. But pill-popping is less obtrusive than alcoholism. That may be one reason why it has tended to be ignored.

Viola Falkenberg

(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, Hamburg, 24 April 1988)

Continued from page 10

deep into their pockets if they are attracted by a gold-mounted snuff box dating from 1765. It has fine marquetry work from various fruit-tree woods depicting scenes from Chinese life. It comes from Frankfurt and is on sale for DM450,000.

The Herrenhausen fair not only has top-class items for sale but traditionally presents items for collectors with more modest financial means at their disposal.

The Hamburg art dealer Gabers has brought a collection of original walking sticks, priced at between DM450 and DM2,400.

The grips of these walking sticks depict dogs or skulls made of ivory, ladies in Art Nouveau style silver, globes of the world or fish, all showing the styles that gentlemen of the previous century favoured.

Items such as these at Herrenhausen attract beginner collectors apart from the specialists, giving the smallest of the major antique fairs a broad base.

Ulrike Meyer

(General-Anzeiger, Bonn, 21 April 1988)

■ LEISURE

More than just rippling latissimus dorsi and dumb-bells at sports exhibition

An exhibition of gymnasium equipment in Cologne turned out to be much more than that, as Ulla Holthoff discovered when she went along for the Bonn daily, *Die Welt*. It highlighted a battle of growing intensity between the traditional German sports club and the new, brash, commercial sports studio — the swept-up version of a place that used to stink of sweat and wintergreen and liniment and was called a gymnasium.

Just to be on the safe side, I wore my coat with the over-wide, padded shoulders. Just a precaution in case of inferiority complex.

After all, in the midst of all these muscles, who wants to stand out at first glance as a weakling office worker? For the visitors parading through the Cologne exhibition buildings are not to be measured by normal yardsticks.

I am at FIBO, the international exhibition for fitness, leisure, sport and body-building; and the visitors aren't here just to look at the dumbells. They are looking at each other.

Because they, too, are a part of this industry which has expanded (literally) enormously over the past five years to throw up a sub-culture that on this weekend in Cologne was on show in all its gleaming hues.

Heavyweight bodies with steely muscles strut between the gleaming chrome and metallic colours of training apparatus as *pulsating disco music* clogs the air.

Harsh spotlights mercilessly pick out the leather-like qualities of skin browned from the glare of solarium lamps. Clothing is garish — pink, neon green, turquoise. The colours are mixed, the clothes are worn as tight as possible. Visitors are exhibits as well. They look each other up and down, assessing, comparing. Admiration here, envy there.

The atmosphere is like a rowdy market place. Appearances and demeanour which are the norm here would be odd anywhere else. Here, the strident similarities are so consistent that the individual hardly stands out.

But one did. Jusup Wilkosz, twice world champion bodybuilder. The Stuttgarter wears a smoking jacket, bow tie and snow-white silk shirt.

He holds the stage at the centre of a group of admiring youngsters and philosophises over times past when "athletes didn't parade around like buffoons. In the days of (Arnold) Schwarzenegger, bodybuilders were still Gods. In those days, they only let themselves be seen at a distance."

And today? "Today they walk around in gaggles so everybody can stand next to them. Everyone can see they are only flesh and blood, they sweat like everyone else. That's why we aren't exclusive any more."

Wilkosz complains about the lack of personalities in the ranks of bodybuilders and about their lack of knowledge of their own bodies.

The German body-building association has 1.2 million members. Bodybuilding has emerged from being a slightly eccentric pastime for an exclusive band of enthusiasts into a popular activity.

Bodybuilders and their training apparatus are the central point of the exhibition.

But the exhibition is not entirely for muscle fans. When it began five years ago, it was. But now it has developed to appeal to include the wider idea of fitness through weight training.

Whereas bodybuilding is devoted to increasing muscle size through using heavy weights, weight-training is geared to achieving fitness, usually through repetitive exercises with lighter weights.

Solid slabs of muscle are not much use to, for example, footballers, who need speed and condition. Many bodybuilders cannot do things like painting the ceiling. In their muscle-bound condition, some actions squeeze the veins so that the flow of blood is interrupted and oxygen cannot be carried to the appropriate muscle, which rapidly tires.

The gymnasium, or studio, as it now tends to be called, is itself going through a time of change. Computer-controlled apparatus is taking over from weight machines.

FIBO began as a specialist exhibition for owners of and suppliers to commercial sports studios, who were prevented from taking part in the big sports- and-leisure exhibition in Munich, ISPO.

Two sports studio owners from Bonn, Volker Ebener and Kurt Thelen, mounted a private exhibition. It was an immediate success. In 1985, 69 exhibitors spread their wares over 5,000 square metres; this year, 300 exhibitors occupied a total of 40,000 square metres.

Not everybody was happy. The German Sport Bund, an umbrella organisation for sports clubs, reacted with horror. Although the DSB has 20 million members, people are turning to the commercial sports operators at such a rate that one day they will pose a real threat to sports organised under the aegis of the DSB. There are about 4,500 commercial studios in Germany.

The change is rooted in changing attitudes. People interested in leisure sport or training are becoming more impatient with the often outmoded structure of the traditional sports club. They object to the old mentality under which they are told how and when to train. They want to be able to train as they want.

These changes in attitudes, and the parallel rise of the commercial gymnasium, is because of reduced working hours, lack of exercise in the daily routine and new attitudes towards sporting activities. Sport is seen as a way of losing weight, of developing a good figure and of living healthily.

And it is exactly towards this new generation of people that sports studios are aimed — to people who don't want to train to competitive performance level.

In America, the way has already been pioneered: multi-purpose centres where every sporting taste is catered for, tennis, badminton, squash, bicycle ergometers, rowing machines, wall bars, saunas, solariums, relaxing rooms and restaurants basketball and volleyball courts and, sometimes, even swimming pools to Olympic specifications.

In the meantime, traditional sports clubs are losing their fear of contact with the commercial operators.

This is not only because of the number of active and former sportsmen who come to the FIBO exhibition, but also because there is a tendency in the clubs themselves to putting their operations on a commercial footing.

Hamburg's oldest sports club has in the past 12 months opened a sports complex being run along commercial lines. Another big club plans a complex.

This shows that the competition between the traditional clubs and the commercial operators has only just begun. The fitness industry regards the development with joy because it promises a high rate of growth.

The FIBO exhibition showed just where the industry's annual turnover of 1.3 billion marks goes to: training apparatus for the home and the gymnasium, benches for sun-tan studios, clothing, special high-protein foods and socalled energy drinks. Even special sports trips are offered.

So the fitness industry is growing and looks like keeping on growing. But what would happen if one morning people wake up and look out the window at the blue sky and the sun and suddenly decide that the ideal place to ride a bike, to run or to row is not in a fitness centre but out there in the fresh air? Or that badminton can be played not only in a hall but also in fresh air in parks and gardens?

Ulla Holthoff

(Die Welt, Bonn, 23 April 1988)

Girls and horses: is it a case of neddy or of teddy?

The *Land* of North Rhine-Westphalia has more riding-club members than any other. But all is not well. Membership is sliding. There are deeper reasons that mere alternative leisure pursuits. They concern the social habits of young boys and the tender instincts of young girls. Rolf Liffers tells us more in this article for *Lübecker Nachrichten*.

Girls like playing with dolls. A riding association in Westphalia says in a report that girls' favourite dolls have four legs. They are horses. Eighty per cent of riding club members are 21 years old or younger, says the association.

Observations traditionally have it that girls expend their love on the back of a horse until such time as a cavalier comes and lifts them out of the saddle and takes away the bridle. Afterwards, only a few manage to climb back into the stirrups.

A spokesman for the association, Petra Schlemm-Poellein, explained this preponderance of girls with a reference to an investigation by Aachen sociologist Professor Heinz Meyer (called The Psychology of Riding) by saying: "The horse is a sort of ultimate teddy bear for girls."

Girls had a stronger need than boys for something to stroke and mother. It was only when the four-legged horse relinquished its role as "a middle thing in between doll and partner" to a two-legged ultimate teddy bear that the membership structure of riding clubs turned in favour of males.

This preponderance of girls must have an effect on the psycho of young male riders, says August *Lütke-Westhues*, who in 1956 *won a gold medal* in the Olympic pentathlon in Melbourne and who has headed the association for 24 years.

"Boys of that age prefer to play with boys; and girls with girls," elaborated Frau Schlemm-Poellein. "And if there is a shortage of people to play with, they simply stay away." Riding club life did not entirely consist of riding horses.

So this double effect — young women leaving the sport and young men not coming into it — meant that membership as a whole was declining. And at a gallop.

Riding clubs are urged to think up and introduce attractive offers to increase the numbers of beginners.

But the report says that across the nation, the decline was minimal. There were a little over 500,000 members. The cave-in was in, of all places, North Rhine-Westphalia, which is, with 140,000 members, traditionally the biggest of all the *Land* riding associations.

Other reasons for the drift away were, says the report, competition from other sports and from such things as videos and discos.

Rolf Liffers

(Lübecker Nachrichten, 21 April 1988)



Off to find their cavalier. (Photo: dpa)

■ SOCIETY

Marriage, cohabitation and changing laws and attitudes

Up until the 1960s, it was regarded as immoral for an unmarried couple to live together. But it was, even then, acceptable for "uncle" to move in with a war widow.

Today young people move in together without embarrassment; older people leave home when the children grow up; divorced people look for new companions without going to the registry office.

The statistics confirm this change in lifestyle. There are fewer marriages in the industrialised countries of the West and the number of divorces is on the increase. There is a constant rise in the number of unmarried people living together and the number of illegitimate children born.

Many commentators speak of a crisis in the institution of marriage. Many believe that marriage is a thing of the past. They maintain that one of the foundations of our society, of the state even, is tottering.

Is there a crisis in the institution of marriage? Is the custom dying out? It depends, perhaps, what is meant by "marriage" and how it has developed.

Matrimonial law states that a marriage is established when the betrothed declare before a registrar that they wish to enter into a state of wedlock.

Saying "Yes" in front of a registrar is the point. A couple could live together for years in harmony, growing old together as a married couple, but if the registrar's stamp was not on a certificate of marriage the two were never married and the same still applies.

The reverse is also true. If a couple have lived separated for years on end but at one time they did go to the registry office and officially marry then they remain in a state of wedlock.

It was not always like that. The sole legal form for a man and a woman to live together, which we describe as marriage today, has developed over the course of the centuries.

There are three sources of the law that we accept today as a matter of course. There is Roman Law, which was re-discovered during the Middle Ages and considerably influenced legal thinking.

Then there was German Law, developed by our ancestors, and then the moral and legal ideals of the Christian Church.

In Roman Law, on which our Civil Code is based, there was, apart from the traditional form of marriage, a second, freer marriage arrangement in which a man and a woman lived together but the woman remained a member of her own family and retained control of her own property.

The word "concubinage," that lawyers use sometimes today if two people live together without a marriage certificate, was used to describe living together with slaves or foreigners, to whom Roman Law did not apply and who were not as a consequence marriageable.

This was not immoral. But the cohabitation of a Roman woman with a freed Greek slave or a Roman patrician with a German maid was not valid as a marriage according to the law.

Surprisingly similar developments took place among our German ancestors. They concluded "guardianship" marriages, *Munt Ehe*, in which everything the woman had automatically became the property of the man she wed.

There was later a second form of marriage, *Friedel-Ehe*, in which the woman remained a member of her own family and had control over her own property.

Historians believe that this second form of wedlock was reserved for stepsons, who were received into their step-father's family but the step-father was not prepared to hand over his daughter's inheritance to her husband.

Historical sources also refer to wealthy widows, who marry a second husband in this less rigid marriage form so that they can remain independent.

There was then a third form of marriage, *Kebs-Ehe*, a form of concubinage. This represented an informal relationship between a free man and a slave girl or a farmer's daughter in bondage.

What did the Church have to say about these arrangements? What is surprising to us today is that the Church was not against people living together without the blessings of a formal marriage ceremony.

But priests did all they could to impose the idea of monogamy. The great German princes of the Middle Ages often had more than one wife as well as several concubines. Their nobles followed their example.

The Church had its hands full explaining to men that they should live with only one wife. The Council of Toledo in 400 AD ordered that any man who lived with another woman apart from his wife should be denied the sacraments. But a man who lived with a concubine as well as a wife had done no wrong.

At the time the Church recognised no legal form of marriage. For the Church it was enough when a man and a woman declared their intention of living together permanently.

Not until the Council of Trent, that came to an end in 1563, did the princes of the Church demand that couples should not only consent to their marriage but that the ceremony should be performed before a priest with two witnesses.

Only marriages concluded in this way were to be recognised at law and only children from such a marriage could be looked upon as legal heirs.

Other relationships could be spoken of in the confessional and be forgiven as sins, but these relationships were living in sin and so a sexual offence in the eyes of the Church.

It was some time before these demands were accepted. For a century or more there were secret marriages and morganatic unions. Princes had mistresses as well as wives. Their mistresses were given high rank in the hierarchy of the court.

Madame de Pomadour was not only the king's lover but as "maitresse en titre" dabbled in French politics to a considerable extent.

Martin Luther allowed Philip, Landgrave of Hesse, to take a second wife although he already had one living. At 19 he had entered into a loveless marriage for political reasons.

Luther turned to the mores of the Old Testament patriarchs, who had practised bigamy and even polygamy without any signs of divine displeasure.

Luther did request the Landgrave to be discreet, however, so that "rough peasants" did not get it into their heads to follow his example.

In 1875 legislation was introduced dealing with the registration of births, marriages and deaths. This legislation established civil marriage as we know it today.

This is the only form of marriage. Other forms fundamentally have no basis in law. Our law does not recognise concubinage or a marriage of the *Kebs-Ehe* type, for instance, because their is no difference in social rank in our democracy nor marriage prohibitions between unmarried citizens.

Does it follow that there is a crisis in the institution of marriage if, apart from the established form of marriage, other more relaxed arrangements of living together are developed? Hardly.

It should not be forgotten that what we today take to be the married state is, from the historical point of view, the exception and never was the rule.

For centuries, for thousands of years in fact, there have been various arrangements for living together, differing primarily in the degree of obligation applied to the woman.

If today it became socially acceptable for people to live together without a signed and sealed certificate, it would not mean a regression into the dark Middle Ages and probably not the death knell of marriage as such.

Eva Marie von Münch

(Hamburger Abendblatt, 16 April 1988)

Handicaps of a common-law relationship

A federal court has ruled that people living together outside wedlock must be assessed in the same way as married couples for the purposes of unemployment benefit.

The court maintained that the Labour Office was in the right assessing the income and property of an unemployed person's partner.

The judgment is both unusual and usual. It is not consistent that such partnerships should be treated in the same way as marriage in unemployment benefit considerations but not when advantages are involved, tax assessment for example.

The judgment imperceptibly adds to a long series of obstacles put in the way of people who cohabit.

Despite all the disadvantages there are more and more people — over two million today — who follow the precept made by St Paul in his first Letter to the Corinthians, although not quite in the sense Paul meant.

The Apostle wrote that marriage was good but it was better not to marry.

Courts are confronted increasingly with the fact that relationships without the benefit of a marriage certificate are just as likely to break up as ordinary marriages.

Judges have a difficult time in this and have to depend on their own judgment. There is no legislation for them to follow, which means there is no policy.

Legislation covering families, marriage and divorce makes no mention of cohabitation. When the law is silent more often than not justice comes off badly.

The list of disadvantages is long. Even childless marriages come off better from the tax point of view than families where the parents are not married.

Children of such relationships automatically belong to the mother when their is a break-up. The father has no say in what name the children shall bear or which kindergarten or school they go to. He just has to pay.

The mother must look after the children but she can only claim maintenance for a year. If she dies the Youth Affairs Office assumes guardianship of the children.

If one of the partners dies the remaining partner has no claim on the dead partner's estate. Inheritance legislation does not recognise relationships that have not had the blessing of the registry office.

Recently considerable attention was given to a woman who looked after her handicapped partner for years. After his death she received no pension.

A glance at the cases involved shows that more often than not women and their children come off badly. As a consequence more and more people are demanding that some form of assistance should be set up for them.

The Greens demand that common law marriages should be granted equal rights. The SPD ask for fairness and the association of family court judges has for a long time demanded minimal protection in such situations.

Joint custody should be introduced urgently and regulations drawn up covering maintenance, pensions and inheritance rights in common law marriages.

But the Bonn government is silent on this matter, disregarding what is a common situation in everyday life.

The government maintains that people who want legal protection should marry. Unconcerned the government has not noticed that citizens do not live according to ideals but in accordance with their own sense of values.

Of course marriage is a support to our society. But these foundations are friable, as the government admits.

Legalised partnerships are no longer the guarantee of stability they used to be. Every third marriage ends in divorce.

Marriage has not meant families with many children. More and more couples are not prepared to start a family.

The central point of any policy can only be the family where a marriage has been concluded in the traditional manner or "free" union.

If the legislature wants more births and fewer abortions, rights must be given to those unmarried mothers-to-be who have good cause to have an abortion.

Such a minimal measure of social security would not be all that revolutionary and is a matter of course in other countries.

Unmarried couples have joint custody of their children in Scandinavia, the East Bloc and Italy.

In France "union libre" is recognised in family law. But the Federal Republic refuses to follow these examples.

The government will not be able to get off quite so easily this time round with stardard political statements about the need for action.

The government fears that any move giving common law marriage greater legal recognition would make the marriage certificate even more unattractive.

Quite the reverse is true. If "living in sin" were given the same rights and duties then couples would probably be inclined to marry anyway.

Miguel Sanches

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 14 April 1988)